Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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LD1407130288 [Editorial Report]

Greek Ship Attack: Responsibility Claim

The "Martyrs of the Popular Revolution in Palestine" claimed responsibility for the 11 July attack on the Greek ship "City of Poros," AFP reported. In a typewritten statement to a Beirut news agency, the hitherto unknown group asserted that its "martyr chief Abu Jihad" commando unit carried out a "lightning attack against dozens of Zionists and a number of American and British soldiers" aboard the Greek vessel.

The group also issued another statement which claimed that the car bomb explosion in Athens earlier the same day was a "suicide operation" aimed at a maritime club which was a "spies nest." Meanwhile, the PLO denounced the terrorist attack and denied any connection with the group responsible, AFP noted.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces captured the Iranian town of Dehloran during their recent offensive in Al-Zubaydat, according to a senior military commander cited by INA. The Presidential Guards forces subsequently captured the Iranian "southern operations headquarters," Baghdad radio reported, citing a military spokesman. Over 5,000 Iranian POW's were taken in the Al-Zubaydat area, INA added.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi I Corps "purged" the Panjwin basin and other Iranian "footholds" in the northern sector, capturing four strategic heights, INA reported.

'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Iranian Armed Forces, said in an Iranian television interview 13 July that Iran has been "forced" to make "serious changes" in its war program. He described the retreat from Halabjah as one such change and said others will be made "later." Rafsanjani warned the Iranian people to prepare to wage war "over a long period" but admitted that some recent "events" have not gone "according to our program."

He said the "false belief" that Iran has "expansionist" aims is the result of "poisonous propaganda" and military plans will "move in a way" to prevent the enemy from continuing such charges. Rafsanjani said Iran hopes to base its defense on "fixed permanent forces" at the fronts, but stressed the need for new volunteers and conscripts to play a role at the front "more than in the past."

Tehran radio commented on the recent battlefront retreats and called for a "clear strategy" and "extensive plans" for defense.

On the diplomatic front, Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'dun Hammadi met in Moscow 13 July with USSR President Andrey Gromyko to discuss the war and other regional issues, INA reported.

Iran

The Council of Guardians overruled the Majlis decision to exempt Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi from submitting his new cabinet to a vote of confidence, IRNA reported. The Council issued a ruling stressing Musavi's constitutional obligation to obtain a vote of confidence.

Kuwait

KUNA transmitted the text of Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah's speech at the U.S. National Press Club in which he welcomed the latest U.S. Middle East peace initiative as a "positive step toward a comprehensive settlement." He also praised the U.S. media's "objective and even-handed" coverage of the Palestinian uprising.

In a question and answer session afterward, Shaykh Sa'd said he hopes the Senate will reconsider Kuwait's request for Maverick missiles, but he indicated that Kuwait will continue to buy military equipment from other sources like the USSR, France, or Britain, according to KUNA.

Reporting on the visit to Kuwait by George Younger, British secretary of state for defense, KUNA noted that military cooperation was among the subjects discussed between Younger and Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad. While Younger told reporters that he is not returning to Britain with any Kuwaiti weapons orders, Shaykh Nawwaf disclosed that he and Younger had discussed British equipment and Kuwait will "review the British offer."

Saudi Arabia

An official source cited by SPA denied "groundless accusations" that the recent Saudi-UK arms deal caused a fall in oil prices, describing the accusations as part of an "artificial information campaign."

Tunisia

The Chamber of Deputies approved a bill which amends the Constitution to bring it into line with the political situation in the country since 7 November 1987, Tunis radio reported 12 July. The amendments drop the clause which made Habib Bourguiba president for life, limit the presidential term of office to two successive terms, stipulate that all president candidates must be between 40 and 70 years old, and abolish "automatic succession" to the presidency.

Lebanon

IDF Operation—An IDF soldier and three "terrorists" were killed in a shootout during an IDF operation north of the security zone, the IDF spokesman disclosed in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. The 13 July operation in eastern Lebanon was aimed at uncovering terrorist hideouts and launching sites for Katyushas.

The IDF chief of staff subsequently noted that the IDF search was carried out in an area used by Hizballah fighters, according to the radio. On the Lebanese side, Voice of National Resistance radio reported that Islamic resistance fighters clashed with an IDF unit in Libbaya, noting that the Israeli force consisted of around 80 men in 10 vehicles, supported by 2 helicopters.

Egyptian Protest—Egypt has submitted an official protest to Israel over the latter's plans to settle Falasha Jews in southern Lebanon, according to a UAE press report cited by WAKH. A Lebanese Foreign Ministry official recently accused Israel of settling Falasha Jews in Lebanese farms near the southern township of Shab'a, Beirut radio noted 11 July.

PLO Comment on Camps Conflict—The U.S. Administration has given the Syrian regime a "green light" to begin implementing the second part of the "conspiracy" to "liquidate" the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio asserted.

The radio linked Syrian tank deployments north of Sidon with Syria's alleged plan to "disrupt the situation" in the Sidon area, and it claimed Israel has agreed not to interfere with the Syrians even if they cross "the well-known red lines."

Algiers Voice of Palestine contended that the self-styled "progressive and pan-Arab regime" behind the impending attack on the Palestinian camps is receiving U.S. equipment and wheat in return for implementing "U.S. and Zionist requirements."

PLO mainstream allegations of PFLP-GC involvement in Syrian-backed moves against Yasir 'Arafat's forces were denied by a PFLP-GC spokesman in a statement carried by the clandestine Al-Quds radio. The PFLP-GC reaffirms its decision not to become involved in any inter-Palestinian fighting, the spokesman emphasized.

Afghanistan

Security forces recently purchased a Stinger surface-to-air missile and launcher from armed opposition groups, Kabul radio disclosed. The missile was supplied to the "extremist" groups "to shoot down passenger aircraft," the radio said.

The seven-party rebel alliance issued a communique in Peshawar calling for direct talks with Moscow on the release of Soviet POW's, AFP reported. The rebels said they would demand "material and political compensation" and the release of rebels "detained" by the government in exchange for the prisoners.

They added that negotiations can only be successful after the Soviet Army withdraws from Afghanistan. The rebel position contradicts the USSR's desire for Red Cross involvement in the negotiations, AFP noted.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Group Claims Attack on Cruise Ship

JN1307161788 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] According to an urgent dispatch from Beirut, an unknown organization called Martyrs of the Popular Revolution in Palestine [Shuhada' al-Thawrah al-Sha-'biyah fi Filastin] has claimed responsibility for the attack on a cruise ship in Greek waters last Monday. The attack resulted in the death of nine people.

In a typed statement in Arabic, the organization declares that the unit of Martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces who was assassinated by Israeli commandos in Tunisia on 16 April 1988, launched a lightning attack against scores of Zionists and a number of U.S. soldiers who were aboard the ship.

In a similar statement, the Martyrs of the Popular Revolution in Palestine-the unit of Abu Hasan Qasim, who was assassinated in Cyprus in February 1988, declared that it carried out a suicide attack outside the naval club, which is described by the statement as a spy den of the Israeli and U.S. intelligence services.

Prior to the attack on the cruise ship, an explosion occurred in a car parked in the harbor. The passengers of the car died.

A short while ago the Greek Government announced that it has officially notified the U.S. Government of its decision to close the four military bases in Greece and the decision was communicated to the U.S. ambassador in Athens.

PLO Says Israel Fabricated Claims on Ship Attack

JN1307182088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] An official PLO spokesman has denied any PLO connection with the terrorist attack on a Greek cruise ship. The PLO spokesman condemned such attacks against innocent people anywhere in the world.

The Palestinian spokesman accused the Israeli intelligence service of releasing forged statements attributed to Palestinians to undermine the close relations between the Greek and Palestinian peoples and between the PLO and the Greek Government.

The PLO spokesman said such attempts by the Israeli intelligence service and its allies aim to distort the just struggle of the Palestinian people and to cover up the mass crimes perpetrated by the Israeli forces against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory.

'Arafat Receives 'Important' Letter From Soviets

JN1207190288 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1748 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received at his place of residence in Baghdad this morning the Soviet ambassador to fraternal Iraq. The Soviet ambassador handed 'Arafat an important message from the Soviet leaders. At the end of the meeting, brother leader Abu 'Ammar asked the Soviet ambassador to convey a message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Our radio correspondent learned that Abu 'Ammar's message deals with the situation in the occupied territory, the developments in the valiant uprising of our heroic people, and the continuous shameful aggression against the temporary Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

The meeting was attended by Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, PLO representative to fraternal Iraq.

Al-Hasan Says Contacts With Syria 'Suspended'

JN1307150588 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] Tunis—Fatah Central Committee Member Khalid al-Hasan has stated that contacts between PLO leaders and the Syrian Government have been suspended from the very first days of the attack against the Palestinian camp of Shatila which resulted in the evacuation of the forces loyal to the PLO Executive Committee chairman. Informed Palestinian sources also said it has been decided to hold a meeting among the leaders of the five Palestinian organizations who are affiliated with the PLO in Baghdad next week.

Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan has told AL-BAYAN that the PLO wishes to hold a dialogue with Syria, but that such a dialogue is impossible in light of the storming of the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps and the evacuation of the Palestinians in them, not to mention that similar incidents are expected to take place in the camps in southern Lebanon.

When asked how true were the reports that the Fatah Central Committee and the Fatah Revolutionary Council have recently adopted the contents of Abu Sharif's document, Khalid al-Hasan said the Fatah Central Committee did not mention anything about this document while the Fatah Revolutionary Council had reiterated the well-known Palestinian constants.

Well-informed Palestinian sources told AL-BAYAN that the PLO Central Council, which is made up of 65 members, was supposed to hold an extraordinary meeting, but PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat opined that it would be more useful to hold a meeting at the level of Palestinian faction leaders in view of the important topics to be discussed at the meeting.

The sources added that the meeting will be attended by Yasir 'Arafat, George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, Bashir Barghuti, and Muhammad

'Abbas. The meeting will discuss two topics: the popular uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories and how to escalate it, and the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

The sources said the meeting will discuss a plan on the proclamation of civil disobedience in the occupied territories, how to render it a success, and the resources available for this purpose, particularly seeing as the Arab countries which were supposed to secure the necessary funds for this purpose have not fulfilled pledges made at the extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers.

'Responsible Source' Denies Negotiations Offer

JN1307124288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] World news agencies this morning distributed a statement by a responsible Palestinian source denying Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement to the THE JERUSALEM POST on negotiations between the PLO and Israel.

Shamir affirmed that the PLO has lately proposed through Romania direct negotiations with Israel to find an interim settlement in the occupied territories akin to the Camp David accords.

The Palestinian source affirmed that the PLO stand is known to the entire world and the Romanian president. He affirmed that the PLO rejects Camp David accords and believes that a just settlement must be achieved within the framework of an international conference with the participation of the five permanent UN Security Council member states as well as all the parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO on an equal footing and with the same rights with other parties, as the responsible Palestinian source put it.

Bassam Abu Sharif Urges U.S. To Change Stand

JN1307162388 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Jul 88 pp 1, 21

[Text] Baghdad—Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, has called on the U.S. Administration to change its political stand in the Middle East, pursue a policy in harmony with the principles of the U.S. Constitution, and not to oppose the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Abu Sharif affirmed the readiness of the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to find a just settlement to the Middle East problem through negotiations with the Israelis and all the parties concerned within the framework of an international peace conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Abu Sharif declared: We await such a shift in policy by the United States because without such a shift peace cannot prevail in the region.

Referring to the results of the meetings of Palestinian leaders which ended in Tunis on the day before yesterday, Bassam Abu Sharif said: They discussed at the meetings new ways of escalating the popular uprising in the occupied territory and the required political action to give impetus to international support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. It was decided at the meetings to rebuild the Beirut camps that were destroyed. Important decisions were also made on wide-scale Palestinian political moves with EC and socialist countries.

Abu Sharif predicted an escalation of the campaign hostile to the Palestinian people with the aim of striking at the popular uprising. He said: Although the Zionist occupation forces are resorting to all methods of racist repression, yet they have failed to strike at the uprising or stem its vigor, and so they resorted to terrorism and attempted to hit the uprising by assassinating the Palestinian struggler Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

Abu Sharif said the camps war aimed to divert attention away from the Zionist enemy's crimes against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory and to harm the Palestinian struggle in general. He predicted that Palestinian positions and camps in the Sidon area will be shelled in the next few days as part of a scheme aimed at liquidating the Palestinian gun in Lebanon. He declared: Defense of our presence and camps in Lebanon is unquestionable and it will be a defense to the last breath.

PFLP, DFLP Discuss Camps War, 'Uprising'

JN1307133788 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] The PFLP and DFLP held a joint meeting in Damascus today. PFLP Secretary General George Habash and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah attended. They reviewed the situation in the occupied territory and discussed developments that occurred in the camps in Lebanon. They also studied the political situation in light of reports on a Romanian mediation between the PLO and Israel.

With regard to the occupied territory the two sides emphasized the need to channel efforts toward maintaining, supporting, and escalating the uprising which enabled the PLO to achieve a political victory at the Algiers summit—according to the joint communique.

With regard to the Palestinian situation in Lebanon the PFLP and DFLP condemned the recent fighting in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps. They emphasized the need to point the Palestinian gun at Israel and not to engage in side battles.

With regard to reports on a visit to Israel by a Romanian official who conveyed to Israeli officials a proposal on holding direct talks between the PLO and Israel, the PFLP and DFLP emphasized their adherence to the constant Palestinian principles, the resolutions of past PNC sessions, and to the resolutions of the recent Algeirs summit. They declared that any political moves outside such a framework will be doomed to failure.

Algeria

Maghreb Committee Talks Open in Algiers 13 Jul

Messaadia Makes Welcome Speech

LD1307162688 Algiers APS in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Algiers, 13 Jul (APS)—Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, head of the Permanent Secretariat of the party, opened the proceedings of the Maghreb Committee, which originated at the Maghreb summit, with a welcome speech.

He began by defining the framework of the meeting, which, as he said, "stems from the summit that took place in Algiers on 10 June." He added that we meet for a noble purpose which is alive not only in the hearts of the peoples of the Arab Maghreb region, but in the hearts of the peoples of the Arab nation, and that purpose is unionist action. This action has long been in the minds of the strugglers in the Arab nation.

While we are working for the unity of the Arab Maghreb, we consider it an indivisible part of the Arab nation. Our concern about this path is improving day after day with regard to the challenges the Arab nation faces from its enemies who will not hesitate to threaten its existence. If our Arab nation has the geographical and strategic depth of Asia and Africa, the Arab Maghreb region is nowadays liable to make the first step for the most sacred goals of its peoples.

Messaadia went on to say "our enthusiasm, the seriousness of our work, and our confidence might make us forget a lot of difficulties that have accumulated through the passage of time and for various reasons, therefore, it is essential that our efforts focus on overcoming these difficulties without ignoring the objective reality or jumping ahead. Hence the necessity for a responsible outlook stemming from the will of the peoples that will actually reinforce this fateful action."

After Mr Messaadia emphasized the principles established at the 10 June summit, the heads of the other delegations took the floor where they expressed their agreement and stressed the necessity—and inevitability—of building Arab Maghreb unity on strong foundations, starting from the political will that was brought into being at the Algiers meeting of the five leaders of the Arab Maghreb.

The conferees then agreed, during the meeting, on practical arrangements and on organizing the work of this historic session, the first of its kind.

Report on First Session

LD1307225188 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] The first working-day of the Maghreb Committee ended this evening at the El-Mithaq Residence in Algiers. The committee itself originated at the Maghreb summit held in Algiers on 10 June.

This afternoon, the Maghreb Committee held a lengthy working session under the chairmanship of Mohammed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee. The session discussed all aspects of the unifying structure of the Greater Arab Maghreb and its possible forms, and ways of implementing this basic and vital aim in the lives and history of the peoples of the region as a step towards the comprehensive Arab unity.

Arising out of the political will established at the Maghreb summit, the participants exchanged comprehensive and detailed views on issues connected with the unifying structure of the Greater Arab Maghreb. In this respect, the delegations concentrated their attention on the broad lines of an ambitious working program designed to draw up and adopt practical measures in all fields according to a gradual, reasonable, and comprehensive view.

In his review of Algeria's contribution, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, analyzed the objective foundations of Maghreb unity and also the short-, medium-, and long-term aims of unification and the mechanisms necessary for preparing the recommendations which will be referred to the heads of state at the end of the preparatory stage.

At the end of the session, Messaadia presented a summary of the discussions and their results, before announcing the formation of the drafting committee to prepare the draft proposals which will be submitted by the Maghreb Committee.

Delegates Comment on Session

LD1307231188 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Excerpt] [Announcer] [Passage omitted] The delegations which compose the Maghreb Committee were received by President Chadli Bendjedid late this morning. The work of the committee continued at the Al-Mithaq Residence this afternoon. At the end of the morning session, Khader Brahimi, who is following the work of the committee, recorded the first impressions of the heads of the Moroccan, Tunisian, and Libyan delegations.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Filali said that what should be stressed is the positive and fruitful character of the first round of talks. Filali also expressed a certain amount of optimism about the prospects of concrete results being obtained by the committee:

[Begin Filali recording in Arabic without translation] I think it was a positive and beneficial meeting. We exchanged views, and every delegation expressed its views concerning the current situation, and also concerning the future for Maghreb unity. It was an open dialogue, without formalities, among brothers. We think that we will, and we hope to, reach positive results. [end recording]

[Announcer] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche expressed satisfaction above all because concrete proposals were put forward from the start of the meeting, and because a platform which would synthesize all the ideas formulated was being drawn up.

[Begin Baccouche recording in Arabic without translation] There are options for every country and projects for every delegation, but from all these proposals we will select one project and work according to it, and that will be the course of action.

As for the many meetings at various levels, they will enable us to draw up an accurate framework which will be applicable and satisfactory to everyone, and according to which we will begin to form Arab Maghreb unity. This foundation was begun at the summit and continues today. It is the newest and most important beginning for establishing the united Arab Maghreb. [end recording]

[Announcer] Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, leader of the Libyan delegation, insists on the atmosphere of understanding and candor which characterized the first meeting. He also insists on the need to build a Greater Maghreb as a first step toward Arab unity and also as the only reaction to the emergence of regional systems and subsystems almost everywhere in the world:

[Begin Al-Humaydi recording in Arabic without translation] We found agreement and understanding among all sides on the need for this unity because of its benefits, effectiveness, and strength, especially as the world around us tends to move toward regional power blocs. Unity undoubtedly means strength for everyone. In establishing its unity, the Arab Maghreb (?bases it) on the current developing situation.

The action which we started today—beginning at the summit—and which we (?complete today) is in fact an action within the framework of the Arab Maghreb. Perhaps it will be [word indistinct] but it is the beginning of action toward the future unity of the Arab nation. If our work now enables us to reach, will be great and will support the Arab nation and strengthen it and will enable it to reach and will bring the day of unity closer. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

President Receives Al-Humaydi

LD1307214788 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] This afternoon, President Chadli Bendjedid received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and the heads of the delegations of the Maghreb countries who are taking part in the proceedings of the five-nation Maghreb Committee to lay the practical foundations for bringing about the unity of the Greater Maghreb.

President Chadli Bendjedid said that this meeting is historic and that it will play an important role in laying the foundations for the building of unity to fulfill the aspirations and hopes of the countries of the Greater Maghreb.

Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi received at his residence in Algiers tonight Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the FLN Permanent Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Algiers and the Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

JANA's correspondent has learned that the five-nation Maghreb Committee will conclude its proceedings tomorrow after holding two morning and evening sessions today.

Iranian Envoy Meets With Justice Minister

LD1307202688 Tehran IRNA in English 17233 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Algiers, July 13, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Algiers Siavosh Zargaran Ya'qubi discussed bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest with Algerian Justice Minister Mohamed Cherif Kharroubi here today.

Kharroubi, in the meeting, termed Tehran-Algiers relations as "strategic" and said all Muslims are one and no differences exist between the world Muslims. Colonialists have created discord among Arabs and non-Arab Muslims in order to spread their domination, he added.

He said Westerners and Zionists interpret the human rights issue according to their own vested interests, and that is completely clear in the transfer of nuclear and poisonous wastes to oppressed African countries which is a blatant contempt of the basic rights of African people.

Chad

Libyan Planes Overfly Northern Towns 12 Jul

AB1307220088 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 2130 GMT 13 July 88

[Text] At 1930 [1830 GMT] yesterday, the Libyan Air Force overflew the localities of Bardai, Ounianga Kebir, and Fada. This overflight comes in addition to the 300 overflights already recorded since the cease-fire of 11 September 1987.

It must be noted that the overflight occurred shortly after the meeting of the foreign ministers of Chad and Libya in Libreville, Gabon. Our country, in spite of its readiness for and (?commitment) to the search for peace, is right to question again the sincerity of the Libyan leaders' desire to cooperate in good faith with the ad hoc committee's peace efforts.

The Libyan attitude is not one conducive to the atmosphere of trust needed to resolve the Chad-Libya conflict peacefully and in conformity with the hope of the last OAU summit.

Egypt

Cairo Protests Israeli Falasha Settlement

JN1407075088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0707 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Jul (WAKH)—Press reports here have said that Egypt presented an official strong protest to Israel over its plan to settle the Falasha Jews in southern Lebanon.

AL-ITTIHAD quoted responsible Egyptian sources as saying that the Egyptian Government voiced opposition to this irresponsible Israeli plan that hampers peace efforts in the region.

It is worth noting that the Israeli entity has recently settled these Jews in southern Lebanon to exploit some agricultural land in the territories under its occupation.

Arab League Cultural Organization Readmits Egypt

NC1307121788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Tunis, 13 Jul (MENA)—Egypt was officially informed today that it has been reinstated in the Arab League Education, Science, and Culture Organization [ALESCO]. ALESCO Director General Dr Muhyi al-Din Sabir met today with 'Ali Mahir, Egypt's ambassador to Tunisia.

During the meeting, Ambassador Mahir received two messages from Dr Sabir, one for Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and one for Dr Fathi Surur, minister of education, informing them officially of the Organization's Executive Council decision to invite Egypt to exercise its membership. [passage omitted]

Mediation to Release POW's in Iran Reported

JN1307174588 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Jul 88 pp 1,2

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Excerpts] AL-WAFD has learned that the Iranian authorities are torturing on an extensive scale Iraqi and Egyptian POW's in Iranian prisons and that Iran has hidden a large number of them in preparation for executing them by firing squad.

Tehran has also refused to register the names of most of the prisoners with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Iraq is currently exerting intensified efforts to convince the United Nations to intervene to stop the Iranian practices against Arab POW's. [passage omitted]

AL-WAFD also learned that Egypt will begin a new round of Arab and Islamic contacts in the future to secure the release of 13,000 Egyptian POW's in Iranian prisons.

The Foreign Ministry is currently discussing the nomination of a European state that has good relations with the Iranian regime to mediate between Cairo and Tehran with the objective of discussing the conditions of the Egyptian POW's in Iran. AL-WAFD learned that either France or the FRG will be nominated to play this role.

Turkish, Pakistani, Omani and Sudanese mediations had earlier failed to convince the Khomeyni regime to release the Egyptian POW's.

'Abd al-Majid Receives 'Arafat Message

NC1307141888 Cairo MENA in English 1313 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, July 13 (MENA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid received a verbal message from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat related to the recent events in the Palestinian camps in south Lebanon.

The message was conveyed through Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative here.

Following the meeting, Kamal said the message of the PLO leader affirmed continuation of coordination between Egypt and the PLO on efforts aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East.

Haykal Interviewed on Mubarak, 'Uprising,' PLO

PM1207112588 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Jul 88 pp 2-3,6

[interview with journalist and former minister Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal by Mustafa Bakri; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Bakri] After your release from detention following the September 1981 campaign [reference to the September before the late President al-Sadat's death when he launched a large-scale campaign of arrests and detention against journalists and others] and your meeting with President Mubarak you were noticeably optimistic about the new president. Now, after 7 years of Mubarak rule, we ask, first, why were you optimistic and, then, are you still so to this day?

[Haykal] Yes, indeed, I was optimistic at the beginning of President Mubarak's rule. I can even say that I was very, very optimistic and my optimism was objective

and did not emanate from a vacuum. Looking back on the years which preceded the new regime—1977-1981 to be specific—one would clearly see the lessons and examples of that period. In my view, it was a period that provided clear answers to anyone who wanted to know and see what was happening in Egypt. [passage omitted]

The lessons were clear and could not be mistaken. The way President Mubarak spoke at the beginning of his presidential term, and the way he behaved or appeared to behave, seemed to denote an understanding of all the circumstances and the lessons. That is why I was and still am optimistic.

[Bakri] But some people maintain that the president has failed to keep many of the promises he made at the beginning of his reign.

[Haykal] President Mubarak, significantly, had the intention and willingness, but he was obstructed by the practical realities in one way or another. He discovered a status quo with its own circumstances and requirements. I am, here, not trying to find justifications for the president, or anything like that. I say that President Mubarak did not fail. He tried.

The point is that the current conditions in Egypt, including Egyptian bureaucracy, are constantly capable of absorbing and swallowing the waves of change. That is why the regime, which had clearly benefited from the lessons of the past, has become less energetic with the passage of time and more conscious of the status quo. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] Mr Haykal, who, in your view, rules Egypt now? Are they Mubarak's men, Al-Sadat's men, or what?

[Haykal] I really do not know. I am not one of those who maintain that there is only one center of power. That is not true anywhere in the world. By definition, the Egyptian state is a centralized state. The center plays the main part, but when I look closely I immediately see a decentralized situation in a country of centralized decisionmaking. [passage omitted]

Believe me, I really do not know who rules Egypt now. All I know is that it certainly is not governed by one center. You ask me who are Mubarak's men. I do not know. If you ask who are Mubarak's masses then perhaps I could say that they are the masses with hope for change, the masses who, in a moment of awakening, looked up to him and then saw that the awakening was slipping away. These masses have not lost hope, not because there is an alternative but because they are aware of the risks inherent in any shock to the country.

These are Mubarak's masses, but I do not know his men. I do not believe that his men are, for example, those bureaucrats who occupy government positions from time to time. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] Some people believe that the atmosphere in Egypt at present is similar to that prevailing just before al-Sadat's assassination. Mr Haykal, do you believe that Egypt is approaching another September?

[Haykal] I say no, the atmosphere in Egypt now is not at all similar to that September atmosphere for one fundamental reason, which is that the Egyptian people are not aggressive people and they only clash with the authorities when the authorities initiate such a clash. In September al-Sadat clashed or sought to clash with all forces in Egypt or all political forces in Egypt. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] Why, in your opinion, have the Egyptian parties failed to prove themselves to the Egyptian people so far? Do you see any possibility of a national front composed of government and opposition, to save the country?

[Haykal] I fully agree with you that the Egyptian parties have not proved themselves to the people so far. I believe that all the parties in Egypt represent remnants or memories of the past. There are vestiges of the Wafd Party, of the Misr al-Fatah Party, and of the Socialist Union. All that exists is a remnant of past phases, a kind, one could say, of nostalgia for times past, because in the absence of a concept for the future, everyone dreams about the past.

If we consider why these parties have failed to have an effective presence, the answer is that, above all, it is because none of these parties has to this moment offered anything more than general plans, although some, that is the Labor Party and the NPUG, have offered more than others. [passage omitted]

To speak of a national front now, I do not know if such a front would mean anything. I do not believe that is the solution. I believe that a solution—for which time has not yet run out—could be achieved if President Mubarak, who is still in the first year of his second term, were to offer a more detailed diagnosis of the problems and even more detailed definition of the responsibilities and remedies.

It is unacceptable to leave the country floundering in tales of the past which have only produced loss of direction. Incidentally, I am not against the past but I do favor a more serious discussion of it. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] Mr Haykal, why has the religious extremism phenomenon grown in the country? What are the reasons and how should this phenomenon be tackled?

[Haykal] I disagree with you that the phenomenon of religious extremism in the country is growing. That is not true. On the contrary, I believe that the degree of extremism is continuously declining. You should differentiate clearly between being religious and extremism. If you ask me about the phenomenon of religiousness, then yes, I would say there is religiousness; but the extremism phenomenon is retreating and receding. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] In your political view, which are the internal forces which pose the greatest threat to the regime in Egypt, and what is the alternative?

[Haykal] There are no internal political forces which pose a threat to the Egyptian regime. I really do not see any political forces capable of posing a challenge. Nor is such a challenge a thing to be desired, either. The danger to the regime, in my view, lies in the causes of its failure, nowhere else. Also, there is no alternative to this regime, and this is what frightens me. When there is no alternative and there is a problem, the only possible alternative is chaos.

Nobody is at present thinking about the post-Mubarak phase. I hope that does not happen. What I mean is that the man should complete his second term, and that is all. I hope he succeeds in the 5 remaining years of his presidency, in cooperation with the people's forces and not the political forces, in correcting the situation to ensure its continuation after his presidency. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] Could we now say that the option of war with Israel is now out, at least for the time being and for the foreseeable future?

[Haykal] I do not believe that the war option is viable at the present time. The most painful thing witnessed in the Arab region recently is the disappearance of the state of moral and political mobilization of the Arab forces scattered in the Arab homeland. Oil, regrettably, played a major part in this.

At the historic moment when the Arab masses were stable and were in a position to rebuild the Arab nation, oil and its royalties came to the fore and once again the Arab forces were divided and everyone went his own way. So the war option was no longer valid because the alliance capable of waging war was fragmented and the national goal and cohesion were lost. Even the international alliances changed considerably. Let us look at the international map.

I am one of those who believe that if you want to discuss politics you must have a world map before you. Look at the map for the states which used to support you and are now against you. Measure those who were with you and those you have lost and you will be dumbfounded by the result. You will notice, for example, that the Soviet Union has changed its position. Some people would say that it has not but I maintain that, at least, it has shifted from the position of strong support to a position of neutrality between the Arabs and Israel. It considers such an attitude to be in its best interest at present.

China used to support the Arabs. What is the position of China now? It is currently producing missiles in agreement with Israel. East Germany, which in the past refused to pay reparations for Israel, has recently agreed to pay it $100 million in reparations. I would like the Arabs to ask themselves about the extent of their relations with India, with which they stand on the common ground of nonalignment.

Latin America now appears in a strange light to the Arabs. Some support the contras against the popular movements. It has been proved that the Arabs are neither good to their friends nor harmful to their enemies and that, very regrettably, they may ultimately sell any friend. This has reflected on their relations with the big powers. Look at the attitude of West Europe in the oil era and look at it now.

Even the map says that you have shrunk on massive geographical areas. How then could there be a war option? The war option stems not only from your own intrinsic power but also from your international alliances. The map says you have shrunk, so how can you challenge?

[Bakri] Do you believe that there is a real possibility of an international peace conference, and could such a conference be the veritable nucleus of a just and comprehensive peace in the region?

[Haykal] An international conference—yes, but it would never really be a conference, an international conference, or a peace conference. It would never be a conference because the real parties would never be represented on an equal footing.

It would never be an international conference because the international powers are being asked to be nothing but a front. It would never be a peace conference because of the absence of the element of power that would guarantee such peace. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] Mr Haykal, some 7 months have passed since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising. How do you view the future of the uprising, how long can it go on, and to what extent is it likely to achieve its objectives?

[Haykal] We have been talking about missed opportunities. I imagine that the uprising, which has neither been supported nor exploited so far, is one of the missed opportunities. The uprising has provided the evidence—as have other events—that our peoples are always ahead of their leaders in everything.

The people do very splendid things and that comes as a surprise, primarily, to the officials in charge of guiding them but, regrettably, not to the enemy. That is the tragedy of the Palestinian uprising. It has occurred at a time of deteriorating conditions in the Arab world, so much so that those who fear its spread on the Arab side outnumber those who fear its spread on the Israeli side. So, while it has had some effect at the international level, its effect at the Arab level remains very small and extremely limited, which is very strange indeed. [passage omitted]

The new Palestinian generation no longer fears the occupation myth because it has lived with it, experienced it, and has come to know its real size. It is now willing to face the occupation fearlessly with stones. The uprising in the occupied territories has brought down many barriers and projected numerous facts.

One such fact is that the Greater Israel dream is no longer attainable inasmuch as Israel can only survive within very narrow borders. The Greater Israel, that expansionist dream, has fallen. What compelled Israel to withdraw from Sinai was the fact that it wanted to disengage itself from the Egyptian people in the sense that it wanted to divert Israeli human resources, whatever their size, to other areas where they are needed.

Israel cannot do battle against 55 million Egyptians who will become 77 million by the end of the century. Israel knows and realizes that, with a population of 3 or 4 million, it cannot control the situation in the region around it. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] But how long could the uprising last, in your view?

[Haykal] It is not a matter of hours nor a question of the forces involved or simple conclusions. One should not empty things of their content and should not just view the surface without looking at the substance. I am prepared to say that the uprising might calm down within 3 or 6 months, or a year, but rest assured that its effects can never be eliminated nor its real significance contained.

It now represents a crisis of existence for Israel, and it can no longer be stopped—or prevented from regenerating itself if it did calm down. The coming phase will, in my opinion, bring with it many many risks. Israel could at any moment give up the Gaza Strip. What is one to do? Israel might also resort to mass expulsions from the West Bank to Jordan, which would have serious consequences.

Jordan now fears such a step by Israel. I would like to say, on the other hand, that such a step would place Israel in an unenviable position because it does not have the manpower to replace the Arab population, even taking into consideration the Jewish immigration from abroad. The number of Jewish settlers in the West Bank does not exceed 40,000 to 50,000, which is very small compared to the Arab population. [passage omitted]

The economic situation in Israel is difficult. For example, last year it received U.S. aid to the tune of $4.5 billion, and it received $5 billion from world Jewry, but compare that to the Israeli national product and you will see that the Israelis have done nothing and that they rely mainly on foreign aid. That is a pointer to the true situation in Israel.

I do not, however, maintain that we should drive Israel into the sea or anything like that, but I do say that here is an entity which should question itself. The stones have been testing it. Regrettably, when the stones began testing, the Arab guns fell silent. Not only the guns, but even the appeals were smothered and the television stations fell silent [about the uprising], although they broadcast day and night.

America's NBC-TV network has carried six programs about the situation in the occupied territories since the outbreak of the uprising, but no Arab television network has agreed to screen these programs and I challenge any Arab telvision station to do so. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] Mr Haykal, there have been claims that the uprising inside the territories is separate from the PLO leadership outside. What do you think of these claims?

[Haykal] My views on this matter are very clear. I say that the uprising developed inside and was the result of conditions and interactions inside. At any rate, if the PLO had nothing to do with it, it is quite clear that the PLO is the entity recognized as the symbol of the Palestinian revolution. Assuming that something happened inside in isolation from the PLO outside, still this separate development cannot remain distant from the PLO in that the uprising cannot reveal its face even if it was different from that of the PLO.

It must remain masked, otherwise it would be in danger. If it must be represented then that must be done by the PLO, even assuming that originally that was not the case. I just want to add that the PLO should develop itself in harmony with the strength of the uprising.

[Bakri] How is that?

[Haykal] In the past the PLO existed in the margin of the [Arab] regimes. Now the uprising has planted the PLO right in the heart of the Arab nation and forced an Arab summit conference to be held in its name. So a new situation has been created which changes the position and the role of the PLO. It is no longer on the periphery of the Arab regimes. This does not mean that I am urging it to clash with the regimes. It simply should lift its representation, official and unofficial standing, to the level of the uprising.

[Bakri] But the regimes are still imposing a siege on the PLO.

[Haykal] For the first time the PLO now has an extension which does not come under the control of the regimes. That extension is the situation inside the territories. In the past the PLO used to talk about an issue which was not a hot raging issue and it engaged in some bargaining in order to survive as a symbol.

Now that symbol is a reality, and that is why the PLO is called upon to act as something more than just a symbol, at least when addressing Palestinian affairs. It should, by the same token, reject the attempts to push it toward a so-called international conference. Those who have risen in the occupied territories are not in a hurry because haste and overeagerness produce much less than the people concerned deserve.

The PLO has no alternative but to stand fast. I ask everyone: What is the meaning of this chase after the mirage of an international conference which, if held in the present circumstances, would only be held at the expense of the PLO and the sacrifices of the Palestinian people? Why should the PLO play this game, and to please whom?

It has its people inside and it can challenge everyone. Its duty is to do everything in its power to keep the image of the Palestinian national struggle before the eyes of the whole world. This is most important. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Condolences on Ferry Attack

LD1307191288 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Jul (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has sent the following message to Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou:

Dear friend, Andreas Papandreou, prime minister of Greece,

I have received with great discomfort the news of the attack on the Greek ferry "City of Poros" and I share your feelings of disavowal and condemnation of this terrorist act aimed at the lives of innocent people.

Dear friend, I express to you my condolences for the victims and I affirm to you our solidarity with the friendly people of Greece in condemning all forms of terrorism which threaten the lives of innocent people.

[Signed] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Ghanaian Finance Minister

LD1307085988 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Jul, JANA—The brother leader of the revolution received Dr Kwesi Botchway, the Ghanaian finance minister, and the delegation accompanying him. He is currently on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Malagasy Foreign Minister Meets Counterpart

LD1307194388 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison has met this morning Mr. Jean Bamananjara, the foreign minister of Madagascar, and his accompanying delegation.

Present at this meeting were the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Madagascar and the ambassador of this country to Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

The two sides have stressed consolidating the promotion of cooperation to serve the common interests of the peoples of the two countries.

They also concluded the protocol on the current visit of Mr. Bamananjara to Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

This protocol, which has been signed by the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and Mr. Bamananjara, has emphasised a keen interest to promote the cooperation between the two countries in various spheres.

Ends Visit 13 Jul

LD1307194888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Jul (JANA)—Jean Bamananjara, foreign minister of the Republic of Madagascar, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this afternoon at the end of their visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA's correspondent, the Malagasy minister talked about the great future of cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Madagascar. He also said his visit achieved positive and fruitful results for cooperation in various fields.

Morocco

Further on Turkish Envoy's Visit to Rabat

Meets Cherkaoui 11 Jul

LD1207220588 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Rabat [no date as received]—Mr Nuzhet Kandemir, the Turkish secretary of state for foreign affairs, had a meeting in Rabat today, Monday, with his Moroccan counterpart, Mr Ahmed Cherkaoui.

Moroccan sources say that their talks centered on the measures to be implemented to consolidate bilateral relations in the economic, commercial, and cultural fields.

Mr Kandemir has been in Morocco since last Friday. Yesterday, Sunday, he attended a reception held by King Hassan II on the occasion of the youth festival.

Morocco and Turkey are linked by cooperation agreements in the naval and transport fields. In 1986, trade between the two countries came to $70 million, with the balance in Morocco's favor.

Signs Agreements, Departs

LD1207220788 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Morocco and Turkey signed two agreements this morning. The first concerns the establishment of a joint governmental committee that meets regularly to review the necessary means for the development of relations between the two countries in all fields.

The second stipulates the abolition of visas for the citizens of both countries, which will enable an intensification of visits between the two peoples. The two agreements were signed on the Moroccan side by Mr Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state in the Foreign Ministry, and on the Turkish side by his counterpart, Mr Nuzhet Kandemir.

On his departure from Morocco this morning, the Turkish official, in a statement to the news media, expressed happiness at his meeting His Majesty King Hassan during which he conveyed to his majesty the greetings and good wishes of the Turkish president, Kenan Evren.

On the talks with Moroccan officials, Kandemir said they dealt with bilateral relations and local, regional, and international issues. He expressed his happiness at the results of his visit to Morocco, which he said would enable further strengthening of the good relations that link the two friendly countries.

He was seen off at Sale International Airport by Mr Ahmed Cherkaoui, the Turkish ambassador to the Kingdom, and a number of oficials.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi on Hostile Campaign 'From Abroad'

EA1307205088 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic1400 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [At Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's 12 July news conference] his excellency said that the campaign against Sudan from abroad is being mounted by forces which work in the interest of the rebel movement in the south and which have given themselves pretexts to assume a hostile attitude toward Sudan.

His excellency explained that 50 percent of southerners live in the main southern towns while 30 percent have moved to the north. Some have gone to Ethiopia, and others are in the areas affected by the fighting. As for providing relief to the affected people, there are simple obstacles which will be overcome.

The prime minister said that political, regional and international factors and the initiatives on the external debt have necessitated the emergence of a foreign policy which makes it imperative to take these changes into consideration. The cabinet was formed to achieve this.

'Large Numbers' of Garang Fighters Surrender

JN1307153388 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Jul (SUNA)—A military source at the Armed Forces General Command has indicated that large numbers of those who used to fight with John Garang are surrendering on a daily basis to military outposts in the operation areas in southern Sudan.

In a statement carried by the newspaper AL-SIYASAH today, the source said that 12 outlaws surrendered to the Armed Forces in the Mayom area. The source welcomed the newcomers, whom he described as having opted to tread the path of patriotism. Besides, he stressed the readiness of all garrisons stationed in the southern regions to receive anybody who opts for the road of loyalty to Sudan and distances himself from the road of agentry.

Rebel Helicopter Gunship Downed Near Nasir

JN1307160288 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Jul (SUNA)—One of our Armed Forces units stationed in the Upper Nile Province downed an enemy (?Bell) helicopter gunship while it was trying to approach an outlaw camp near Nasir on 10 July.

We have learned this from a military spokesman for the Armed Forces General Command. He added that the same unit, after destroying the helicopter gunship, destroyed an outlaw camp and expelled the rebels' remnants, who fled the scene leaving behind them a large number of personnel killed and wounded as well as quantities of weapons and ammunition.

In a related development, the number of the rebels who surrendered to the Armed Forces last week rose to more than 30. Furthermore, our Armed Forces have managed to free 12 women and children who had been kidnapped by the rebels.

Report on John Garang Address 12, 13 Jul

EA1307220888 [Editorial Report]

(Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English at 1300 GMT on 12 July and 13 July broadcasts a speech by John Garang, leader of the Sudan

People's Liberation Army. The speech is either live or recorded and was broadcast in two parts, the first on 12 July being 52 minutes long and the second on 13 July being 50 minutes long.

Garang begins by denying allegations that the SPLA is "weak and finished" and he insists that the movement is stronger than it has ever been. He continues:

"As I talk to you today, SPLA forces remain in siege of Kurmuk and Qaysan and have made deep penetrations to within 15 km of Damazin. To date, the SPLA has recruited thousands of youths from southern Blue Nile and southern Kordofan. Today the major garrison towns of Juba, Wau, Malakal, Torit, Bentiu, Aweil, Rumbek, Gogrial, Nasir, Akobo and Yei, Bor Maridi, Mundri, and so on are under siege and threatened. While we call for peace, any of these towns can and indeed will fall to the SPLA."

Garang goes on to say he does not want to give the impression that the SPLA has achieved only victory after victory without any problems. He admits:

"...there had to be and there will continue to be internal as well as external factors that impact adversely on the attainment of our objectives. Internally, for example, we had to contain the elements of separatism, tribalism, and opportunism. Externally, we had to grapple with the problems created by the enemy in their futile attempts to infiltrate our leadership with the aim to salvage and preserve the old Sudan by accommodating the SPLM-SPLA through some form of sham peace. In the form of their sectarian non-objective thinking, the rulers of Khartoum misread the dialectics of revolution as symptoms of SPLA'S weakness. Again, they could not be more wrong. Far from weakening the SPLM-SPLA these problems and challenges have enriched and strengthened the movement."

After noting that the presence of foreign troops on Sudanese soil is a serious threat to the country's unity, he goes on:

"In western Sudan, there are foreign military forces that came to our country uninvited and that do not fall under the control of any Sudanese authority. To be precise, these foreign forces now number 6,500 officers and men, and they are increasing in number. They roam the area at will, spreading panic and terror among the citizens of the region." Garang says these foreign forces must go, adding:

"The SPLA has also learnt of another presence of foreign troops in the northeastern tip of our country. These foreign troops also came to the Sudan uninvited and stay uninvited. They must also go."

The first part of Garang's speech concludes by accusing Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi of dragging his feet over an agreement for the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to send relief to government and SPLA towns in the south, saying.

"The ball of relief to southern Sudan is still in Sadiq's court. The ICRC has already completed its survey flights to government-controlled towns of Juba, Malakal, and Wau and we are waiting for the ICRC to make survey flights to the three SPLA-held towns of Akun, Yirol, and Kongor. After the survey flights are completed, the real relief flights will begin to the six towns of Juba, Malakal, Wau, Akun, Yirol, and Kongor and subsequently to other affected areas, as shall be agreed upon by the SPLM, Sadiq's government, the ICRC, and any other international relief organizations." He appealed to the international community to channel relief through the SPLA-controlled Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association in Nairobi.

Continuing his address, in the second part broadcast on 13 July, Garang says the resolutions of the Koka Dam agreement, signed 27 months ago in Ethiopia, are still relevant as a blueprint for peace in Sudan. He says:

"Let us convene another Koka Dam-type national gathering—Koka Dam II—(?as a) preliminary to the national constitutional conference, and in which all the Sudanese political forces will be present, including the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] and the NIF [National Islamic Front] that chose not to attend Koka Dam I. This is the proposal."

He goes on to explain that it is necessary to include the DUP and NIF, because the original KOKA Dam declaration was not binding on them. He continues:

"The SPLM-SPLA has also contacted several countries, and at least three of them have expressed willingness and readiness to host Koka Dam II. We call on the National Alliance to consult with the various Sudanese political forces. The movement is now ready to receive representatives of the alliance to discuss all matters related to this peace initiative, including time and venue."

Garang concludes his address by making two appeals:

"1. I repeat my appeal of 22d March 1985 to the Sudanese Army in the south and in the country in general, to start independent talks with the SPLA. The three parties, like Numayri, have nothing to offer except national discord, ruin, and death. While they sit and squabble over the trappings of life in Khartoum, it is the Sudanese Army, the SPLA, and the civil population in the war zones that bear the brunt of the war.

I encourage commanders in the war zones to contact SPLA commanders in the field to discuss ways and means to bring about peace with or without the three Sayyids and to convey our views to the SPLA general headquarters.

"2. I call on the National Alliance to take up the SPLM-SPLA initiative of convening a Koka Dam II, and to start preparations and contacts with the SPLM-SPLA

immediately. Should the sectarian parties and governments place obstacles on the path of Koka Dam II, then, as now, I call upon the real forces of the intifada [uprising] to start preparing for intifada III."

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Mauritanian Foreign Minister

LD1307092188 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jun 88

[Text] The president of the Republic received Mauritanian Foreign Minister Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, who delivered a message from Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, the Mauritanian head of state. N'Diayane said the message is part of the series of consultations between the two presidents and can be attributed to the excellent relations between Tunisia and Mauritania.

The Mauritanian minister said that he and his Tunisian counterpart presented a review to the head of state on the work of the joint Tunisian-Mauritanian committee. He also said that the president forwarded some views on this committee's work.

The prime minister and the foreign minister were present at all the meetings.

Ministers Sign Accords

LD1307093488 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri and Mauritanian Foreign Minister Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane today signed the final document for the proceedings of the second session of the Tunisian-Mauritanian greater joint committee.

The document stressed Tunisia's and Mauritania's eagerness and determination to bolster and consolidate bilateral relations in order for them to reach the level of the good relations between the two countries.

The document has thus dealt with the vital economic, cultural, and scientific spheres of the two countries' cooperation. The document contains a trade agreement exempting national products from customs duties and other tariffs, which will increase trade and achieve economic integration between the two countries.

In this vein, the document also notes the agreements thus far reached in the spheres of fishing, industry, mining, and transportation, as well as specified technical and cadre training cooperation [passage omitted]

Deputies Approve Constitutional Amendments

LD1307125788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Today the Chamber of Deputies unanimously approved the bill amending the Constitution in its second reading. The approval came during an open full session chaired by Rachid Sfar and attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and other ministers.

The prime minister said that the adoption of the bill crowned a deep dialogue between the executive and the legislative powers. [passage omitted] The prime minister explained that, following the second reading of the constitutional bill, the 7 November principles will be embodied in the basic law, issues such as the automatic succession and presidency for life. [passage omitted]

Regarding the most important amendments to the Constitution, we highlight the first one that concerns Chapter 21 and calls for the reduction of the age of candidates for the Chamber of Deputies from 28 to 25 years. The amended version also drops the final paragraph of Chapter 39 which makes the former president, president for life.

The amendment also includes the third paragraph of the same chapter and limits the presidential term of office to two successive terms only, instead of three as stipulated in the previous chapter. It also says that candidates must be of Tunisian nationality to the exclusion of any other and must confirm the Tunisian nationality of their parents and grandparents. Presidential candidates must be Muslims, not less than 40 years old but not more than 70.

Among the provisions of Chapter 57 which concerns the cases of (?validation) are the abolition of automatic succession. The presidency of the Republic will be temporarily assigned to the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies for a period ranging from 45-60 days, during which a new president will be elected.

The acting president cannot submit his candidacy, resort to a referendum, disband the Council of Ministers, dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, or resort to the exceptional measures provided for in Chapter 46 of the Constitution. These acts are prohibited in order to secure the transfer of authority in a natural manner to the new president of the Republic.

Regarding the possibility of a dispute between the executive and the legislative, the amendment retains the provision for a censure resolution enabling the president of the Republic, in his capacity as an arbitrator in the form of the endorsement of the censure resolution, either to accept the resignation of the Council of Ministers or resort to dissolving parliament.

The amendment included transitional provisions which put at the disposal of the president of the Republic legal constitutional means which empower him to choose the suitable time if necessary. If it becomes clear to him that the nation's supreme interest requires it, the president may call for presidential and/or legislative elections before the end of the current legislative term and during 1990 at the latest.

Kuwait

Further on Visit to U.S. by Shaykh Sa'd

More on Talks With Reagan

LD1307104088 Kuwait KUNA in English 0823 GMT 13 Jul 88

[By David Walsh]

[Text] Washington, July 13 (KUNA)—His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah meets the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Wednesday after having discussed the Middle East, the Gulf War and an arms-deal with President Ronald Reagan Tuesday.

Reagan told his Kuwaiti guest that he will continue "pitching" the 1.9 billion dollar F-18 package to Congress despite the Senate's recent action blocking key parts of it, a senior administration official said following the meeting between Reagan and Shaykh Sa'd Tuesday afternoon.

He called the prospects for the sale to Kuwait being completed "good."

At the same time, the official told newsmen in a special briefing, Reagan maintained the U.S. will not speak to PLO members about Palestinian self-determination unless certain "well-known conditions" are met.

He also said the crown prince and prime minister—the highest-ranking Kuwaiti official to visit the U.S. in 21 years—expressed Kuwait's appreciation for the U.S.' continuing role in the Arabian Gulf.

The senior administration official could not be named according to the briefing's ground rules. He spoke following the two leaders' meeting from notes he had taken, and later responded to questions.

Monday, Shaykh Sa'd also held high-level talks with Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci and other senior U.S. officials.

On the administration's proposed sale to Kuwait of 40 advanced F-18 fighters, the official noted Shaykh Sa'd was "very pleased" to see Reagan's interest in "following the issue personally."

And both men, he added, agreed that if the arms package is "split up" and important Mavericks eliminated—as pro-Israeli congressmen are trying to do—Kuwait's self-defense capabilities will be denuded.

The U.S. has been pressing for congressional acceptance of the entire package, which includes several hundred missiles of various kinds.

Without the desired Maverick missiles, the U.S. and Kuwait have insisted, there would not be much point in that strategic Gulf state buying the planes.

The official said Shaykh Sa'd stressed to the President that "Kuwait does not plan any aggression against any other country, and that the main role of this plane and any other military equipment it is seeking is to defend Kuwait only."

The Kuwaiti prime minister and crown prince, as well, "expressed hope that the Congress will understand Kuwait's position and agree with (its) request to purchase F-18s," the official said.

"At the end of the meeting, the President said 'We will keep pitching for the F-18s,'" the official said. He added the President told the crown prince and prime minister the U.S. was "proud of our relationship."

The briefing official said there was no discussion of the possibility that failure to get the F-18 arms package through Congress would impel Kuwait to "diversify" its arms sources.

But he said the U.S. "clearly" realized that Kuwait "will indeed go elsewhere" if appropriate defensive weapons systems are unavailable here.

As to "splitting up" the package, the senior U.S. official told reporters there was "no discussion" of this between the President and the crown prince.

And, hinting at the possibility Congress could yet be persuaded to support the proposal, he said, "I think it will be very interesting to note the results of the crown prince's discussion on the Hill."

The official said the U.S. and Kuwait insist that the package "go forward as an integrated whole ... especially the Mavericks."

The official said the White House would continue pressing for the sale, saying its specific strategy would include continuing to say that "the overall policy objectives we are trying to pursue through the instrument of these sales is abundantly in the national security interest of the United States and our friends on the Gulf area."

He said the prospects were "good" of the sale going through and added the "real determination" of the administration would "prevail at the end of the day."

Referring to President Reagan's strong departure statement on the "legitimate political aspirations of the Palestinians," the briefer told KUNA he did not know whether those remarks went farther than any previous ones by the President.

But such statements in the past have been limited to State Department Secretary George Shultz.

Their utterance in the White House on the occasion of a Kuwaiti leader's visit, some observers suggested later, possibly signaled a slight change in U.S. policy on the Palestinian issue.

On the overall U.S. approach to the region, the briefer said Kuwait's crown prince was heartened. He said Reagan was thanked for example for reflagging 11 of Kuwait's oil tankers—an operation even initial critics have agreed was largely a success.

For his part, the President told the Kuwaiti leader he was grateful for Kuwait's "firm stand" against international terrorism, the U.S. official said.

But the two nations remain apart on whether the PLO should be entitled to represent the Palestinian people in any Mideast peace talks.

Shaykh Sa'd made clear during his departure statement that the PLO was the Palestinians' legitimate representative—the view of virtually the entire Arab world.

But the U.S. briefing official stated just as plainly that the Reagan administration would continue to boycott any peace talks where PLO members were present—unless "well-known conditions" were met.

Although the senior official did not spell these terms out, they were understood to mean the clear acceptance by the organization of Israel and the renunciation of violence.

Later in the evening, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah met with members of the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations, a Washington think-tank.

Continuing his intensive schedule during a six-day stay in Washington, Shaykh Sa'd met in a closed session with the foreign affairs experts to brief them on the situation in the Arabian Gulf region and Kuwait's position on various issues, including relations with the U.S. and the proposed arms package of 40 F-18 planes and other related equipment.

The Council members include some of the top experts, corporate members, and retired Foreign Service officers dealing with the Middle East region and especially the Arabian Gulf.

The Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, who had just returned from the White House and a meeting with President Reagan, answered all questions related to the visit and the problems in the region, including the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Shaykh Sa'd outlined Kuwait's support for the Palestinian uprising—the intifada—and the need for the U.S. to recognize the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and to a homeland.

He also answered extensive questions on the Iran-Iraq war, the prospects of a settlement through efforts at the Security Council, and the success of the reflagging and escort operation.

Afterwards Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah flew to Cincinnati as a private guest of U.S. Vice President and Republican presidential candidate George Bush.

In a significant gesture and respect for the Kuwaiti crown prince, Bush invited Shaykh Sa'd to fly with him on his own private plane to Cincinnati to watch the famous All-Star baseball game, which was watched by millions of Americans.

The All-Star baseball game usually brings togehter the best of the league teams playing against each other.

Shaykh Sa'd was a special guest of Bush in his private booth overlooking the stadium and American television cameras covering the game highlighted the crown prince's presence with Bush.

During the one-hour flight, Shaykh Sa'd and Bush reviewed bilateral issues of mutual concern, the situation in the Gulf, the Iran-Iraq war, and the proposed arms sale package to Kuwait, among other issues.

Accompanying Shaykh Sa'd on the plane was the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, the director general of the crown prince's office 'Abd al-Latif al-Bahar, and one senior Kuwaiti military official.

The trip to Cincinnati and the All-Star baseball game crowned a full-day's schedule for Shaykh Sa'd.

Speaks to Press Club

LD1307201988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1839 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Washington, July 13 (KUNA)—Following is the full text of Shaykh Sa'd's speech at the National Press Club in Washington.

Mr. President, distinguished members of the press, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure, on my first official visit to the United States, to address this distinguished institution, the National Press Club of Washington, which is marking its eightieth anniversary this year. I would also like to take this opportunity, to thank President Reagan for his cordial invitation extended to me, to visit Washington.

As you know, we met yesterday at the White House, where I conveyed a personal message from His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, and exchanged views on bilateral relations and other matters of mutual concern, including the situation in the Arabian Gulf, the Middle East problem, and ways in which progress can be

made, to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict. I can say that it was a warm, friendly, and constructive meeting, reflecting the close ties of friendship and cooperation, existing between our two countries.

I would also like, to convey through you, a message of friendship from the people of Kuwait to the American people, with whom we share many noble ideals and values. We in Kuwait have great admiration for the American people, and its institutions, culture, and great achievements.

Ladies and gentlemen, Kuwait has always sought, within the limits of its means, to play an active role in regional and international affairs. And through its membership in the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations, Kuwait has tried to find solutions to conflicts by negotiations and peaceful means.

We strongly believe in the principles of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. And we have always upheld the principles of good neighbourhood, and all the other noble principles of the United Nations Charter.

A few years ago, we worked with five neighbouring Arab Gulf countries, with whom we share common interests as well as similar political, social and economic conditions, to establish the Cooperation Council for the Arab Gulf states. The Council believes in dialogue and reconciliation, and works for peace and development, advocating that the Arabian Gulf should be kept a sea of tranquillity, stability, and free from any kind of conflict.

Ladies and gentlemen, we fully realise the vital importance of oil for the world economy, and for the welfare of all the industrial and developing nations, that is why we sought to play a positive role, to ensure stability in both oil supplies and oil pricing.

Realizing also, that cooperation is a trademark of our time, we have followed an economic and investment policy which resulted in consolidating cooperation between Kuwait and the free world economies. Our investment policy has also played a positive role in helping the economies of many countries, and contributed to the stabilizing of world economy.

While concerned about our own economy, and those of the major industrial countries, we also give due attention to the fate of the less developed countries. It is to this end, that we set up in 1961, the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development, with the aim of assisting developing countries, in various parts of the world. Kuwait's commitment to the fund is now in the range of seven billion dollars which, in terms of gross national products, is among the highest contributions of foreign aid in the world.

Yet, our efforts in the field of development, economic stability and security, have in recent years, been threatened by two major conflicts in our region: the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Iraq-Iran war. The situation in Lebanon has also been a major cause of concern for us. We have constantly supported that country's unity, integrity and independence.

Kuwait has spared no effort on these three fronts. Our good offices have continued, at the United Nations, within the framework of the Arab League, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference, and other international platforms. We have constantly sought to reduce tension, and to bring about comprehensive solutions to these problems.

As regards the Arab-Israeli conflict, we believe that the recognition of the rights of the Palestinians to self determination, and to a state of their own, is essential to any solution to this conflict. We also believe that any durable solution must involve full participation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation in peace negotiations, on an equal footing with all the parties concerned, within the framework of an international conference sponsored by the United Nations.

The continued uprising of unarmed civilians against Israeli occupation over the last seven months is a strong expression of the will of the Palestinians and their determination to regain their freedom and legitimate rights. It is also clear evidence of the failure of using armed force and brutal repression. We believe that, without a just and lasting solution, ensuring the rights of all the parties concerned, this conflict will continue to threaten the security, stability and peace in the region and the world at large.

And in respect to the intifada [Palestinian uprising], I would like to compliment the American press and media. Their objective and even-handed coverage is yet another feather in the hat for American media, its noble values and traditions.

We are much encouraged by the latest peace initiative launched by the United States for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. We consider it a positive step towards a comprehensive settlement. We are encouraged by this administration's efforts. We sincerely hope they will lead to an international conference that will involve all the parties concerned to the conflict, including the PLO. Ladies and gentlemen, the Iran-Iraq war has now continued for eight years with no end in sight, despite the massive drain in human and economic resources. This conflict has at the same time threatened the security and stability of all the states in the region, as well as international shipping and world economy.

We believe that any comprehensive settlement to this conflict must be based on Security Council Resolution 598 adopted by all the fifteen members of the Council. The resolution was accepted by Iraq. We called and

continue to call on Iran to respond positively to the appeals of the international community by declaring its acceptance of this resolution.

The experience of the last eight years has shown that there can be no comprehensive solution to this conflict, except through negotiations. Failing this, the Security Council members should assume their responsibility in taking the necessary steps to put an end to this tragic war. In this regard, we note with satisfaction the important role of the United States in seeing the implementation of Resolution 598.

The failure to find a solution to this war has led to the violation of all international laws regarding the safety and freedom of navigation in the Gulf. This has seriously affected the ability of Kuwait to export its main commodity: oil, thereby creating economic and security concerns, not just for Kuwait and other Gulf countries, but also for the major industrial nations.

The attempts by others to clock shipping traffic to and from Kuwait ports amount to a maritime blockade. It was this that led Kuwait to seek the assistance of the five permanent members of the Security Council in assuming their responsibility towards securing the freedom of navigation in the Gulf. Kuwait's consultations led to the present arrangement, whereby the United States agreed to register eleven Kuwaiti tankers under the American flag. This step was highly appreciated by the government and people of Kuwait and best reflects the strong and friendly relations between Kuwait and the United States.

But let me emphasize here, that there is yet another serious and negative aspect of this war: the escalation of terrorism against Kuwait and Kuwaiti interests. Like other peace-loving nations, we strongly condemn all acts of terror against, innocent civilians. We will continue to stand firm against terrorism. We will neither be intimidated by terrorists nor submit to their demands. In this regard we welcome the Toronto declaration on terrorism issued last month.

Ladies and gentlemen, Kuwait has always been guided by the principle of self-reliance. But in order to be able to reach this objective, the Gulf states including Kuwait, are in constant need of improving their defensive capabilities. In order to fulfill our defense needs, and to repel aggression, Kuwait naturally looks to its friends, including the United States. We hope they would recognize this need and assist us in achieving our common objectives and interests.

We are a small country in terms of area and population, but we will not hesitate to make great sacrifices in defending our land, rights and national sovereignty. We seek arms to defend our country against aggression, but not to launch aggression. The ability of our friends and allies to deliver is a barometer of friendship and cooperation.

Thank you very much, Mr. President, distinguished members of the press, ladies and gentlemen.

Responds to Questions

LD1307205388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1947 GMT 13 Jul 88

[By Raphael Calis]

[Text] Washington, July 13 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah Wednesday emphasized that the U.S. naval forces in the Gulf are there not only to protect the Kuwaiti tankers but to guarantee the freedom of navigation in the international waters of the Arabian Gulf.

Shaykh Sa'd made this comment during a question and answer session with American journalists at the National Press Club of Washington after delivering a major policy speech before more than 300 newsmen, corporate leaders, and experts on the Middle East.

His response came after a questioner sought the crown prince's reaction to a call made by the Turkish prime minister earlier in the day saying the U.S. needs to pull its forces back from the Gulf.

Shaykh Sa'd noted the fact that the ships in the Gulf region belong to a number of countries and include those of the Soviet Union, Britain, France, Holland, and others. In addition, these foreign vessels have been in the Gulf since 1945. They have also been in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, he said.

The crown prince emphasized that Kuwait "fully appreciates the reflagging and the escorting by the United States, but the real reason these American ships are there is to ensure the international waterways and to keep them open."

Shaykh Sa'd fielded very confidently many of the questions concerning the proposed arms package sale by the United States.

Asked why Kuwait has chosen the F-18 fighter pilots rather than the F-16, the crown prince said skilled Kuwaiti pilots had tested all kinds of planes manufactured in the U.S., Britain, France and other countries but had submitted their recommendation that they found the range of the F-18 and its maneuverability to be most suitable for Kuwait's air defense needs. And the government adopted their recommendation, he said.

Asked whether Kuwait will go elsewhere for its arms if Congress insists on removing the Mavericks from the 1.9 billion dollars package, the crown prince replied that he would prefer not to comment on this issue unitl he had a chance to meet with members of the U.S. Congress this evening and Thursday.

"I will explain to them our needs for this kind of planes and missiles and hope they will agree at the end," Shaykh Sa'd said.

The crown prince sought to reassure members of the U.S. Congress by noting Kuwait's foreign policy, as outlined in his earlier speech, was a peace-loving nation [as received] that does not seek the arms to launch aggression against anyone but to defend itself against aggression.

In his speech, however, the crown prince referred to the fact that "the ability of our friends and allies to deliver is a barometer of friendship and cooperation."

The crown prince said that in his meeting with President Reagan on Tuesday he had explained all the reasons why Kuwait needs these kinds of planes and missiles and Kuwait's need for help from its friends and allies.

Shaykh Sa'd added, "I sincerely hope that the U.S. Senate will reconsider the request made by Kuwait for this kind of planes and missiles."

But the crown prince and prime minister went to great lengths to explain Kuwait's policy of diversifying its arms.

"We have already got weapons from East and West. Our search depends on the kinds and effectiveness of military equipment.

"Do not be surprised to hear tomorrow, next week, or next month that we have bought equipment from the Soviet Union, France, or Britain," the crown prince explained.

Shaykh Sa'd was also asked one question as to whether Kuwait was relieved by the recent military successes of Iraq on the battlefield.

He noted the fact that when Iranian forces were in the Al-Faw Peninsula, Kuwait was a target of aggression many times, with missiles being shot by the Iranians on Kuwaiti territory and installations.

"Naturally, we feel relieved and proud that Iraq has been able to get back its occupied territories," Shaykh Sa'd asserted.

But he also noted that Iraq has made it very clear that it is willing to put an end to this disastrous war which has been raging since September, 1981.

"Iraq came with many proposals and suggestions to the Iranians to find a fomrula to end the war, but unfortunately Iranian leaders insist on fighting the Iraqi Army," Shaykh Sa'd explained.

A number of questioners tried to lead Shaykh Sa'd to comment on his views of the presidential candidates, Michael Dukakis and Vice President Bush.

The crown prince and prime minister made it clear he did not want to interfere in American domestic policies, especially during the presidential campaign.

But when one questioner asked for his impressions of his talks with Bush during last night's trip to Cincinnati to watch the All-Star baseball game, Shaykh Sa'd said:

"The trip gave us a good opportunity to discuss some vital and important issues concerning the Middle East problem, the Iran-Iraq war, and other matters."

Shaykh Sa'd then added, "I found Mr Bush has a vast experience and knowledge of the Middle East problem and is well-acquainted with the conflict beween Iran and Iraq. He also knows a lot about efforts and steps taken by the GCC to end the war."

In response to another question, the crown prince and prime minister announced that Secretary of State George Shultz will be traveling to the Middle East soon, visiting Egypt, Jordan, and other countries. He expressed the hope that he will also visit Kuwait during his forthcoming trip.

He noted that the Reagan administration has been trying hard to find a solution to the Palestinian uprising and the Arab-Israel conflict and he wished it luck in finding a solution.

Commentator Says Missile Rejection 'No Surprise'

JN1307174388 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 12 Jul 88 p 1, 26

[Article by Editor in Chief Faysal al-Marzuq in Washington: "The American Arms Deal and the Kuwaiti Decision"]

[Text] It was no surprise that the Zionist lobby moved through its puppets in the U.S. Senate against the Kuwaiti order to buy needed defensive military material.

The strange thing about the affair is that the White House officially presented Kuwait's needs to the Senate on 7 July of this year and the Senate's reservations were made known directly in a suspicious way on 8 July. The rejection came through an amendment to the clauses in the U.S. State Department's budget.

That is to say that some Senate members who voted for ammendments in some clasues of the State Department's budget were not informed of the special appendix, which rejected the sale of 300 Maverick missiles to Kuwait. The voting was made by proxy, that is to say that in many cases the voting was made by telephone [as published] due to the approaching Senate summer holiday.

The Zionist lobby and its representatives in the Senate are no strangers to this dirty game because the word of honor does not exist in the dictionary of this clique which represents Israel in the U.S. Senate. This clique is

only interested in its personal interest to get reelected, even though this may be at the expense of the U.S. citizen who works in military industries firms.

The Saudi slap in the face to the U.S. policy which supports Israel, represented by an announcement that Saudi Arabia has concluded an arms deal with Britain to purchase necessary arms, has had great impact on American public opinion. The size of the announced deal would have surely influenced the solution of the unemployment crisis in the United States had it gone to Washington. The deal would have gone to it were it not for some members of the Senate and Congress who sold themselves to the devil "Israel" in return for their reelection.

The Saudi slap in the face was followed by a Kuwaiti one although on a smaller scale. This was done the day before yesterday when Kuwait anounced that it signed a deal to buy arms from the Soviet Union at a cost of around $300 million.

The most important aspect of this matter was that the deal's announcement was timed to coincide with the official visit of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, to the United States. The allies of Zionism had purposely rejected the sale of Maverick missiles to Kuwait 2 days before his highness' visit to Washington in a deliberate and improper manner.

Through His Highness Shaykh Sa'd's visit, the Kuwaiti Government should affirm to the United States that the deal should be approved without separation or amendments, or there shall be no deal at all, especially since alternatives are available in Europe and the Soviet Union.

The Arab stand in general, and that of the Gulf states in particular, should be made very clear to the Zionist lobby and its allies in Washington. These states only need arms to defend their people and territory. The United States either agrees to these requests, or, as we have previously said, the alternatives are available, especially with the silly excuses that the Zionist tools here in Washington use.

The first of these excuses is that of Israel's so-called security. The second excuse, which we think is uglier than the crime, is the claim by this lying clique of some members of the Senate and Congress that they are afraid that the technology of these weapons will be smuggled to the Soviet Union, as if we are agents and spies for the Soviet Union. This in itself is the biggest offense against any country.

Saudi Arabia

Denial of Arms Deal-Production Link Repeated

LD1307232188 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] An official source made the following statement to SPA today:

Despite the statement made by the minister of oil and mineral resources yesterday in response to a REUTER despatch from Tokyo on speculations attributed to oil industry sources, in which he said there is no link between the British-Saudi arms deal and the level of Saudi Arabia's oil production and in which he confirmed the Kingdom's adherence to its production quota in accordance with the latest OPEC agreement, we find that certain quarters continue to persist in accusing the Kingdom of causing a fall in the price of oil as a result of the deal with Britain for the purchase of weapons for the consolidation of its legitimate defense.

This suggests there is behind this artificial information campaign a purpose, behind which the oil middlemen and their agents hide.

The source went on to say while the Kingdom denies the validity of those accusations, it wants to confirm anew its total adherence to the OPEC-approved production quota. As to those who try to cause harm by making groundless accusations, we pay no attention nor attach any weight to them.

Saddam Chairs RCC, Ba'th Party Command Meeting

JN1307122288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. Our Armed Forces' great military achievements and the liberation of our soil from the Iranian enemy were discussed.

The RCC and the Regional Command hailed the heroic deeds of the Presidential Guard Forces and the IV Army Corps for their great liberation of our national soil and for achieving a great military victory by crushing the enemy's war and human machines.

'Arafat Confers With Tariq 'Aziz 11 Jul

JN1207200888 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1748 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received at his residence in Baghdad yesterday Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The talks dealt with the serious situation resulting from the destructive onslaughts against our Palestinian camps in Beirut.

The talks also dealt with the escalation in the blessed Palestinian uprising inside the occupied territory and the increasing crimes perpetrated by the Zionist occupation forces against the masses of the uprising.

They also discussed ways to support the Palestinian struggle inside the occupied Palestinian territory and in our camps in Lebanon on the Arab and international levels.

The talks were attended by the deputy chief of the RCC Liberation Movements Office; Brother Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member; Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, Abu 'Ammar's press adviser; and Brother 'Azzam al-'Ahmad, PLO representative in Baghdad.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,259

JN1307172388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1608 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,259 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. The number of enemy POW's who were evacuated to the rear in the battlefront of the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah Thalithatan" operations amounted to 5,050, including many officers of various ranks. POW's are waiting to be evacuated to the rear. The number of those will be announced in subsequent communiques or statements.

2. The valiant Presidential Guard forces this morning managed to capture the south operations headquarters of the enemy forces, which were destroyed by our forces yesterday in and opposite our liberated land of Al-Zubaydat.

Thus, our forces have captured and controlled the logistical and operational headquarters in the entire area of operations as well as all other corps headquarters affiliated with this headquarters.

This was after our forces from the Presidential Guards and the VI Army Corps had yesterday captured the headquarters of the 21st and 77th Divisions.

3. In valiant operations, our gallant units in the I Army Corps purged the Panjwin and the rest of the areas where the criminal enemy had held a foothold desecrating our chaste land.

The enemy units in this area were destroyed, while those who survivied were forced to flee. Our forces also captured a number of scoundrels and seized quantities of weapons and equipment.

The purging operation included mountain peaks of 1,823, 1,804, 1,714, and 1,690 meters. God bless the Al-Siddiq forces in the heroic I Army Corps sector and all fighters along the sectors of operations.

4. Our Air Force today carried out brave raids on the enemy units, destroying many concentrations of scoundrels and devastating their weapons, positions, and equipment.

This is in addition to dealing accurate and effective blows to three bridges used by the enemy for military purposes; two in the Naderi area and the third in the (Jingola Sur) area.

Our planes also dealt other blows to targets in the (Wahdati) Air Base in Dezful, as well as to a surveillance radar in Dezful.

After carrying out their duties in 155 combat missions, all our planes returned safely to base, God be praised.

5. Our Army Air Force helicopter gunships flew 76 combat missions during which they offered the best support for our valiant units. They also inflicted further losses on the enemy personnel and equipment. They then returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 July 1988

Armed Forces Capture Dehloran

JN1307181788 Baghdad INA in English 1756 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 13, INA—Victorious Iraqi Armed Forces captured the Iranian town of Dehloran and destroyed enemy troops there during their thrust in liberating Al-Zubaydat area yesterday, a senior Iraqi military commander announced here tonight.

The commander told Baghdad T.V. tonight that President Saddam Husayn who personally supervised the operation for the liberation of Al-Zubaydat ordered that a military plan for the destruction of the enemy be developed in order not [to] facilitate the enemy's retreat and accordingly Iranian targets were captured, noting that Iraqi forces would not remain long inside enemy territory.

Helicopter Downing Denied

JN1307193988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1922 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (?NA)—The Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims that a helicopter gunship was downed in the Panjwin area, northern Iraq.

In a statement to INA tonight, the spokesman said that all the planes which flew missions today returned safely to base.

Speaker Sa'dun Hammadi Holds Talks in Moscow

For Soviet and Iraqi reportage on the visit to Moscow of Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 13 July Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Abu Sharif Document 'Meant To Blind Us'

TA1307154388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Sharif's document was meant to blind us, it does not express the PLO position, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today. He was rejecting two no-confidence motions submitted to the Knesset on this issue. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Three factions submitted no-confidence motions today: HADASH [Democratic Front For Peace and Equality], the Progressive List for Peace, and the Arab Democratic Party. The first two protested the fact that the government does not view PLO spokesman Abu Sharif's peace plan as a change in the PLO position. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres answered these motions by saying that in his opinion all Abu Sharif has done is pull the wool over our eyes.

[Peres] It seems that Abu Sharif is dealing with the image of the PLO rather than with the situation the PLO has created. Yet even within Abu Sharif's document a distinction must be made between the fuss over the packaging, and the fidelity of the contents to and reliance on the old PLO positions. [end recording]

According to Peres, the Abu Sharif document does not express the real PLO position, which remains unchanged.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 13 July, in a report on the Knesset debate on the no-confidence motions, adds that "Peres said he knows that King Husayn is willing to accept the Gaza Strip if it is demilitarized."]

The no-confidence motion submitted by the Arab Democratic Party was related to the recent cases of deportation. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin replied that all the deportees have been engaged in terrorist activity in the past and have served prison terms for those offenses.

Peres Says 'Uprising' Has 'No Real Leadership'

TA1407110388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes that the uprising in the territories has no real leadership. The violence can be met with force, but one must also raise political proposals for a solution to the Middle East conflict. In a meeting with John Howard, the leader of the opposition in Australia, Peres said that 'Arafat is wasting his time trying to heal rifts within the PLO.

Before the ink dried on the Abu Sharif document, the foreign minister said, the PLO itself had already attacked its spokesman's document, which is incompatible with the Palestinian Charter.

Peres added that during the old days of the Arab rebellion, the British had executed 200 Arabs and thousands were killed. The IDF, however, is conducting itself with restraint, despite Arab provocations.

Rabin Notes Policy of 'Forceful Response'

TA1307111888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Knesset today that Israel's policy in the territories calls for a forceful response to acts of violence. Thus, he said, Israel will be spared the need to make political moves while feeling pressured by that violence. Minister Rabin was responding to several queries in the plenum. Our Knesset correspondent Gil'ad Sher reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] [Sher] Minister Rabin first responded to an interpellation by Knesset Member Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement on a public statement made by a senior military source that the intifada [uprising] is going to be a long affair. Rabin said that these remarks reflect neither the Cabinet's nor the Defense Ministry's nor the General Staff Command's policy. Furthermore, the official's remarks themselves were misquoted. Rabin then proceeded to review the principles of the defense policy in the territories:

[Rabin] The prevalent policy, with which every component of the defense establishment is familiar, sees the IDF's role as restoring calm and substantially lowering the level of violent activity in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. What that senior source said is that even if we manage to reduce the level of violent activity to below that registered on 9 December, those who perpetrated these incidents and who are interested in perpetuating the violence in the territories will nevertheless continue to call it by the same name they have been using for some time now: intifada. In any event, the IDF is entrusted with the mission of securing calm. It is expected to do so in the shortest time possible, while realizing that these incidents may continue for some time and preparing itself accordingly. [end recording]

Rabin on 'Uprising' Costs, Saudi Arms Deal

TA1307135188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today told the Knesset that we may have to scale back plans for the IDF and, as a result, also its effectiveness, unless the costs accrued from the intifada [uprising] are fully covered. Replying to motions to the agenda on the Saudi arms deal, Minister Rabin said that European countries and the United States are expected to exert mounting pressure on Arab countries to purchase weapons from them.

Rabin added that the IDF has given priority to the supply of F-16's and will make them operational even earlier than originally planned. The above was reported by our Knesset correspondent Natan Gutman.

Shomron: Unrest 'Can Be Calmed,' Not Eradicated

TA1307192388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron stated today that the situation in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza can be calmed through military measures, but these measures cannot affect the will and motivation of the Palestinians living in these areas. The chief of staff toured the Judaea area today.

There were disturbances in the territories today, mainly riots staged by students in Dura, south of Hebron, as well as in Tulkarm and Qalqilyah. Here is a report by our Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky.

[Begin videorecording] [passage omitted] [Shomron] I cannot say that we control their will, motivation, and ambitions. These still exist and will continue to persist.

[Shlonsky] Last week, a senior officer said that in his opinion the intifada [uprising] would continue for years. Do you subscribe to this assessment?

[Shomron] First of all, the said senior officer apparently did not say that exactly. I believe what is at stake is a test of will and a struggle between us and the Palestinian population. This struggle has been going on for years, and will continue for years to come. The real question is at what level of violence it will be waged; that is the real question.

[Shlonsky] And what do you have to say to the Israeli public? When will a calm be attained that can be lived with, both as far as the local inhabitants and the Israeli public at large are concerned?

[Shomron] The IDF and the defense establishment will lower the level of violence to the point where we can lead a normal life. This, rather than the eradication of the problem, is the real crux of the matter. The problem cannot be eradicated. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Abolition of Civilian Administration Under Review

TA1407102288 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Jul 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] The defense establishment is considering abolishing the Civilian Administration and instituting a military administration in the territories. Our correspondent has learned that the matter was raised for the first time about 3 weeks ago in a discussion at the chief of staff's office, and it was decided to hold a special debate on the matter. It is not clear whether a date for this discussion has been set yet.

Our correspondent has also learned that it is the Civilian Administration that strongly supports reinstating the military authorities. The supporters of the idea say there is no effective control over developments in the area today because the IDF commanders are not well-informed on the Arab issue and IDF forces sometimes do more harm than good.

According to them, we should return to the situation that existed before 1981 when Ari'el Sharon, as defense minister, separated the Civilian Administration from the IDF military forces.

Defense Minister Rabin is believed to support the change. A few days ago, Rabin spoke at the Knesset about "military authorities" in the territories and made no note of "civilian authorities." Rabin also recently decided to dismiss about 1,500 of the Arab workers in the Civilian Administration in order to weaken this body. [passage omitted]

Appeals of Administrative Detainees Reported

TA1307181488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Some 1,500 of the 2,800 administrative detainees in the Qezi'ot detention facility in the Negev have appealed their detentions. To date, approximately 900 cases have been considered, while discussion of the appeals of 450 detainees have already been completed.

About 100 detention orders have either been revoked altogether, or the detention periods involved shortened. These statistics were provided by Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military judge advocate, to the attorney general and the state attorney. The two toured the facility today to get a first-hand impression of the detention conditions, the legal process, and the working conditions for counselors at the site.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Buses Stoned; 2 Injured

TA1307132288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] A bus driver and a passenger were slightly wounded by stones thrown at buses in Jerusalem today. One incident happened on the Shu'fat road where a 21-year-old female passenger was hit by a stone while traveling on Bus No 25. A soldier who was on the bus started chasing the stone throwers while shooting in the air. The police arrested a 16-year-old and claim they know the identity of another youth who also threw stones.

The other incident occurred on Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem where a No 27 bus driver was injured by stones.

2 Nabulus Youths Die of Wounds

TA1407090988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jul 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] Two teenagers from Nabulus died of wounds sustained earlier this week in clashes with troops, sparking riots last night in defiance of a curfew in the city, hospital and Palestinian sources said.

It was the fourth consecutive day of unrest in the city, where residents of most neighbourhoods have been confined to their homes since Tuesday morning. [passage omitted]

When news of the death of one of the youths reached his neighbourhood of Jabal al-Shimali, demonstrators set up stone roadblocks and clashed with troops, and a 25-year-old man was shot and seriously wounded, the Nabulus sources said. They added that demonstrators in other neighbourhoods stood near homes and chanted slogans, but there were no clashes.

Military sources confirmed that a man had been wounded, but said circumstances of the injury were being investigated. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile in Rafah, the Army sealed five alleys it said had been used by attackers to throw petrol bombs at troops in the past few weeks. Observers suggested that this was the first time the Army had reported these recent attacks. Usually it said the Strip was quiet.

Jewish Boy Injured by Stones

TA1407044388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] A 12-year-old boy was injured in the head and in the eye by stones in Qalqilyah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the boy was traveling with his parents to their home in the Ginnot Shomron settlement when their car was stoned. Following the injury, the parents drove to a military camp from which the boy was evacuated by ambulance to Beilinson Hospital. Many vehicles were stoned in Qalqilyah yesterday.

The committee for safe movement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza informed the prime minister that the Jewish settlers hold him directly responsible for what is taking place in the region, because nothing is being done to stop attacks on Jewish traffic despite their warnings.

Settlers Riot in Qalqilyah

TA1407060488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The curfew imposed last night on Qalqilyah was extended after a riot that followed a demonstration by Jewish residents from the area. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the residents gathered last night to protest the injury of a 12-year-old boy in the head and eye by stones in the town. They ran wild, smashed the windshields of Arab cars, and demanded that the commander of the Central Command meet with them. Finally another senior officer arrived at the scene, and at 0500 this morning the settlers agreed to leave the place. [passage omitted]

UK Ambassador Discusses Saudi Arms Deal

TA1407104788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The new British ambassador to Israel, Mark Elliot, said this morning that his government is well aware of the concern in Israel over the arms deal with Saudi Arabia. He was speaking after a meeting in Jerusalem with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Steve Pantonovitz reports:

[Begin recording] [Pantonovitz] Mr Elliot said the meeting was basically a courtesy call, his first since taking office here 3 weeks ago. I asked him whether the arms deal had been raised.

[Elliot] There was a brief mention of that, but we talked about many things. I was very grateful for Mr Peres' views on a range of issues.

[Pantonovitz] On the arms deal, and in the wake of your meeting with Mr Peres, what will you be reporting back to the Foreign Office in London?

[Elliot] I shall give a description of what he said to me about all those issues.

[Pantonovitz] Is the British Government today aware of the concern and alarm in Israel about the extent and scope and purpose of this deal?

[Elliot] We are certainly well aware of the concern that is being expressed here. We also have a point of view which is being given to the Israeli Government and many others.

[Pantonovitz] Is there any chance now, in the wake of Israel's concerns that have been expressed, of any amendment to the agreement or conditions being placed on the use of the arms by the Saudis?

[Elliot] I don't think there has been any discussion of amending the agreement. I am not prepared to talk about the details of that agreement or of the conditions which may or may not be attached to it. This is a matter for my government in London.

[Pantonovitz] The Foreign Ministry spokesman, in answer to a question, said that during the meeting Foreign Minister Peres had protested the deal. Peres said that with the accelerating arms race, because of the huge costs involved, wars could be lost without any fighting taking place and the entire peace process could collapse. The British ambassador is understood to have replied that Britain also wants to see a race for peace and not for war. [end recording]

Bomb Explodes in Tel Aviv; No Casualties, Damage
TA1407071888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] A small bomb exploded on Klatchkin Street in Ramat Aviv near Tel Aviv University. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. This was reported by our correspondent Mikha'el Huller.

Yesh Gvul Rejects Investigation as 'Traitors'
TA1307112388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The Yesh Gvul [There is a Limit] Movement has repeated that it does not encourage its members to disobey orders to serve in the territories. At a news conference in Jerusalem, organization leaders said they therefore rejected the decision by the government to investigate their activities on suspicion of being traitors. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 13 July in a report on the Yesh Gvul news conference adds that "so far 28 reserve soldiers have been sentenced to prison terms for refusing to serve in the territories. Today another soldier was arrested. Nisim Qedem, a 33-year-old Armored Corps officer, was given a 21-day prison sentence."]

Soldier, 'Terrorists' Killed in Southern Lebanon
TA1307182288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] An IDF soldier was killed this afternoon in a clash with a terrorist squad in southern Lebanon. The family of the soldier has been notified. Three terrorists were also killed in the clash.

The IDF spokesman announced that the IDF today launched an operation north of the security zone to uncover the launching sites of katyushas and the hiding places of terrorist squads. The operation took place in the eastern sector north of the security zone.

At around 1400 the IDF unit encountered a terrorist squad. One of the soldiers and three terrorists were killed in the ensuing brief shootout. The IDF spokesman said that upon completing its mission, the IDF unit returned to the security zone.

Commenting on the incident, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that peace along the northern border is attained through intermittent operations by thousands of soldiers. These operations are occasionally carried out north of the security zone. He pointed out that terrorism continues in Lebanon, and the attempts to fight it persist.

Shomron Says IDF Must Operate North of Zone
TA1407051288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The IDF chief of staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, has said that there are many Hizballah terrorists in the area where the IDF operated yesterday. They entrench themselves in the area in order to infiltrate into the security zone from there.

We have no choice, said Shomron. If we do not meet them north of the security zone, they will meet us inside it and near the border. The earlier Maydun and Al-Luwayzah operations did weaken Hizballah, but did not paralyze it completely. The chief of staff expressed his regret over the heavy price such operations cost us.

Shamir Interviewed on PLO, Egypt, 'Uprising'
TA1207101788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jul 88 p 5

[Report on an interview with Prime Minister Yitzaq Shamir by David Landau]

[Excerpts] The intifada [uprising] has not weakened Israel's standing in the international arena, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted yesterday.

"It may have perhaps delayed certain steps by certain countries towards improving relations, but it has not triggered any deterioration."

Moreover, as it continues "people (in the West) get used to it. It appears less and less on their television screens."

In Eastern Europe, the premier noted, where relations with Israel are slowly thawing, the intifada was never very prominently played in the media, reflecting the relatively minor importance it held with governments there and their policies towards Israel.

Militarily it is "a bother, but not a strategic threat." Nor does it exacerbate present or potential strategic threats from outside states. [passage omitted]

The prime minister obliquely confirmed reports that the PLO, through Romania, is proposing direct talks on an interim settlement in the territories akin to the Camp David autonomy.

"Maybe," he said, "they want to exploit ideas which they know we support. But (a negotiation) must be within a framework which we support too. The autonomy can't be a figleaf, for a short time, leading to the cession of the territories to the PLO. It has to be in a framework—or else nothing serious can come of it."

Camp David provided that framework; the Palestinians were to be part of it; Israel for its part "is still totally committed to it."

The "message" to the Palestinians of a Likud election victory would be, "Now there is a real chance of negotiations under Camp David—adjusted, of course, to take account of changed circumstances. We will be deadly earnest about pursuing this course—if the Arab side shows willingness.

"Today we can do nothing, because of the prospect of an international conference which all the Arabs, including the most extreme among them, support—because it would enable them to dodge negotiations and offer no concessions at all.

"After a Likud victory, that prospect would disappear."

Shamir said he could not respond seriously to the recent, remarkably moderate document published by PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif because "he is part of the PLO machine. And other senior leaders immediately dismissed (the document). It is a game they play, 'to confuse the enemy'."

The document was flawed, moreover, for the same reason as the overtures through Romania; "There has to be a framework in which the Palestinians would participate in negotiations."

And the PLO remained inherently unacceptable "because they are committed to their ideology."

Granted, the Abu Sharif document contradicted that commitment, but "There is also the question of confidence. I cannot have confidence in anything emanating from that source."

The premier noted pointedly and repeatedly that President Mubarak of Egypt had expressed—"and continues to express, though more abroad than in Egypt"—his regret that Egypt broke off the Camp David autonomy talks in 1982.

"The Egyptian leadership, to this very day, blames the Palestinians for rejecting the opportunity presented to them by Camp David...Mubarak cites Arab pressures on Egypt, and he vows that he will not permit Egyptian policy to be influenced by such pressures in the future."

Shamir cited Mubarak's resoluteness, with much approbation, as the reason for his own confidence that nothing untoward will happen to the Israel-Egypt peace after the 'Tabah verdict is announced.

"The Egyptians well understand that the peace serves their interests, and that is why they honour their commitments. They say so explicitly. Nor do they conceal their solidarity with the intifada. Their media is every bit as extreme on this subject as those of the other Arab states."

Might Egypt's view of its interests change in the light of the massive military procurement programmes underway in other Arab states and their perceived effects on the balance of power? And does not the intifada heighten the danger to Israel of those procurement programmes—especially once the Gulf war ends and massive arsenals can be unleashed elsewhere?

The premier noted in response that Egypt itself was engaged in an ambitious upgrading of its armed forces—"but that does not prevent them from remaining faithful to the peace treaty."

He said that linking the end of the Gulf war to the intifada was "far-fetched. Before the intifada there was enmity (to Israel) too. And I don't think they will rush into battle again once that terrible war ends. They will want, quite naturally, to rest and enjoy peace.

"There have been rumours, moreover, that in Iraq there is some thinking in a different direction (regarding a more moderate line on Israel)...."

Having deliberately, enticingly, dropped this little hint for publication, Shamir flatly refused to say what he knows of these rumours. "I don't want to go into any detail."

On the broader strategic concerns of the accelerated arms race in the region, the premier was carefully low-key. He stressed that "today, at any rate, these arms acquisitions are aimed at (defence against) Iran."

He dismissed any suggestion that Israel's controversial standing in Britain these days might have prejudiced its ability to know of, and take political action against, the evolving mammoth arms deal with Saudi Arabia. "Britain's arms embargo against us has been in effect for years, notwithstanding any professions of friendship. (Selling arms to the Arabs) is simply an economic interest for them. They have never taken our concerns into consideration. Never. Never, that's the sad fact."

In Western Europe in general, Shamir maintained, the controversy surrounding the intifada had left Israel's foreign relations largely unscathed. Granted, Greece was due to have established full diplomatic relations and failed to do so—"but this is an example of a delay in improving relations, not a deterioration.

"In Western Europe there can sometimes be a yawning gap between public opinion and government policy.

"The French Government under De Gaulle (in 1967 and after) was totally against us; public opinion was totally in our favour. So sometimes it's the other way around." [passage omitted]

Air Force Plans 'Extensive' Helicopter Upgrade

TA1307105088 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Jul 88 p 21

[Report by military correspondent]

[Text] Yas'ur 2000 is the name of the most extensive upgrading project ever carried out on an Air Force helicopter and one of the biggest technological projects ever undertaken in Israel.

The Air Force's Yas'ur, a Sikorski-made heavy transport helicopter, will become an advanced helicopter capable of confronting threats posed on the battlefront in the year 2000.

This was disclosed by BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR in the festive edition released this week on the 40th anniversary of the Air Force.

The project costs $3 million per helicopter. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's decision to cancel the development of the avionic Lavi, as reported yesterday, will probably provide an added incentive to complete the Yas'ur 2000 project as part of the alternatives to the Lavi.

The main contractor for the project will most likely be Israel Aircraft Industries.

Brigadier General Avner Raz, in charge of new equipment for the Air Force, told the magazine that as far as he knows, "no air force in the world has a project equivalent to the Yas'ur 2000." The upgrading process will extend the helicopter's lifetime, reduce its upkeep costs, and provide it with new advanced systems.

The first prototype of the upgraded helicopter will fly within 3 years.

Rabin Continues To Meet With Palestinians

TA1307125288 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Jul 88 p A12

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes that Israel is facing a prolonged struggle against the population of the territories and that the troops should be concentrated in an effort to shorten the duration of the uprising.

Minister Rabin spoke during a tour of Hebron, Bethlehem, and Bayt Sahur yesterday. [passage omitted]

As for administrative detentions, the defense minister stressed that this measure will be used not only against East Jerusalem residents suspected of involvement in inciting and in organizing the uprising, but also against Arabs inside the Green Line, provided the security forces persuade the appropriate authorities to sign the orders.

Rabin has continued to hold meetings with Palestinian figures in the territories over the past few days in a bid to establish a communication channel with the local population.

The defense authorities make a point of not disclosing the names of these people in order to shield them from any physical danger.

Sharon Departs on 1-Week Visit to Romania

TA1307194788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] An ITIM correspondent reports that Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon left for Romania this evening. Minister Sharon will be the guest of the Romanian minister of foreign trade. During the 1-week visit Sharon will confer with three other Romanian ministers and will visit an auto plant, among other things.

Wilner Back From Romania After Meeting Ceausescu

TA1307141888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] The RAKAH secretary, Knesset Member Me'ir Wilner, returned from Romania where he met President Ceausescu. After the meeting they released a joint communique. The communique stated that Romania favors an international peace conference for the Middle East with the participation of the PLO and Israel, the establishment of a Palestinian state next to Israel, and maintaining the integrity and security of all the countries in the region.

Envoy Relays to Mubarak Peres Pledge on Tabah

TA1307090188 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] In his first meeting with President Mubarak since the war in Lebanon, Moshe Sason, Israel's ambassador in Cairo, handed the Egyptian leader a message from Shim'on Peres, the vice prime minister and foreign minister, with a commitment to abide by the ruling of the arbiters on Tabah, and to continue the peace process.

Although during his long term in Cairo Ambassador Moshe Sason had almost never been received by President Mubarak, he was invited to a farewell meeting toward the end of his term. The meeting lasted for over 1 hour, which is unusual for foreign ambassadors.

IDF 'Worried' by Settler Activity in Territories

TA1307181788 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari, Tuvya Basskind, 'Ezra Aviran, and ITIM]

[Excerpt] In the past few days the settlers have stepped up their activity in Samaria. It was reported yesterday that settlers came to the village of 'Ayn 'Arik near Ramallah and damaged property. A riot broke out in the village, an IDF unit arrived at the scene, and three men were reportedly wounded by the soldiers' clubs.

A few days earlier another incident involving settlers occurred in Kafr Gallil near Nabulus. It has been reported that settlers blocked several routes in Samaria. Our correspondent notes that so far the only activity is of the "Qiryat Arba' patrol." Settlers from Samaria have maintained a relative restraint.

The IDF is worried by the increased settler activity. Our correspondent notes that the settlers are operating in a "vacuum" as far as the enforcement of the law is concerned. On the one hand they are outside the IDF's jurisdiction, and the IDF is not keen on entering into a conflict with them. On the other hand, while they are the police's responsibility, the police in the territories are not strong enough to stop them. Even in earlier, calmer times the police were not too enthusiastic about handling settler affairs. The main reason for this lack of enthusiasm is that most of the policemen in the territories are Arabs. [passage omitted]

New Hebron Settlement Turned Over to Civilians

TA1207144288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The ceremony marking the conversion of the Shema' Nahal outpost, on the southern slopes of the Hebron Hills, into a civilian settlement was held today. The ceremony was attended by David Levi, the deputy prime minister and construction and housing minister.

Initially, 15 families will live there and during the next 7 months 15 new housing units will be constructed. All the families come from Beersheba and the south. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Shema' is being settled by the Amana movement [affiliated with Gush Emunim], whose goal is to inhabit the place with some 250 families.

Palestinian, IDF Tally on 'Uprising' Fatalities

TA1307102188 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 13 Jul 88 p 10

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, the 217th day of the intifada [uprising], the IDF spokesman reported that there have been 166 Palestinian fatalities. The figures do not include those shot dead by Jewish settlers and deaths from other causes.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, there have been 227 Palestinian fatalities since the start of the intifada.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 298 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

—199 fatalities from IDF and Jewish settler gunfire.

—58 fatalities from asphyxiation.

—19 fatalities from beatings and electrocution.

—22 fatalities from unstated causes.

Tzomet Finalizes List of Knesset Candidates

TA1307194588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Tzomet finalized its list of candidates for the Knesset this evening. Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan was elected to the first place, Reserves Colonel Yo'ash Tzidon was elected to the second place, and Ya'aqov Tuviya of Kibbutz Hamadya was placed in the third place.

Paper Criticizes 'Arbitrary' Deportation Policy

TA1307163188 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 13 Jul 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Deportation—A Punishment Not Justified By Any Deed"]

[Text] Once again the Israeli authorities have resorted to an arbitrary measure. They have decided to deport 10 residents from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

For our part, we have always put on record our strong objection and opposition to these practices. Deportations not only contravene the most elementary principles of human rights, but are considered to be the harshest punishment that can be imposed on any person. It is akin to uprooting a human being and depriving him of a free and dignified life in his own land.

The international community, through the UN General Assembly and the Security Council, has issued several resolutions calling on Israel not to resort to such methods of punishment.

Despite all the resolutions and appeals, Israel is continuing to implement this harsh punishment. There is nothing that can prevent Israel from bringing any resident to trial if it has proof of the security or other charges attributed to him. Deporting a resident, however, is an unjust and coercive decision. Moreover, the frequent recourse to this punishment also means that the Israeli leadership still believes that it can quell the events in the occupied territories by deporting a number of Palestinians.

If we take a look at what Israel has achieved from deporting residents in the past, we will find that the outcome has not been to the benefit of anyone. Therefore, persistence in pursuing this course will not lead to mutual understanding or coexistence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

We understand from the British mandatory law, on which Israel relies with regard to the deportation process, that the place to which one is deported must be under the control of the government that carries out this act. In addition, deportation should be for a limited period of time, after which the deportee is allowed to return to his homeland. But it seems that the main target of the Israeli deportation process is the entire Palestinian people, and the issue is not confined to this or that resident. As experience has proven, however, such decisions will only increase the insistence of our Palestinian people to achieve their demands and rights.

Hence, it would be appropriate for the Israeli authorities to desist from carrying out this measure. We also call on the Arab governments and nations, international organizations, and human and legal associations to be more active in their efforts to prevent Israel from implementing such despotic decisions. Statements of condemnation and denunciation are useless. Arab and international reaction in the past reflected the impotence of these countries in adopting a decision that conforms with the level of events.

Correction to Cabinet Ministers Popularity Poll

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Shamir Popularity Rising; Peres Support 'Stable'" published in the 13 July Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 26, column 2:

line 8 of the table, concerning Netanyahu, should read "less than 1 percent" in both the May 88 and April 88 columns (rather than "1 percent")

Further on Visit by India's Rajiv Gandhi

Meets Newspaper Editors

JN1207074888 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jul 88 p 1,17

[By Usamah al-Sharif]

[Text] Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi denied that his country has any intention of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel.

He said his country supported the Palestinian right even before India's independence and that India supports Arab stands.

In a meeting with Jordanian newspaper editors in chief at his residence, he said that India supports the convening of an international conference to resolve the Arab-israeli conflict, with the participation of all the concerned parties.

He said the conference can be held if the superpowers want this. He said the conference should have full authority to carry out its mission successfully.

Gandhi praised the special relations between his country and Jordan and the role played by His Majesty King Husayn in promoting these relations.

He said his talks with his majesty the king, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and Jordanian officials were successful and cordial.

He declared his country's ambition to increase the level of trade exchange with Jordan and to concentrate on the role of the private sector in both countries, especialy in the field of expertise exchange, the transfer of Indian technology to Jordan, and the exchange of information on the problems of development in the two countries.

He said that a team of Indian industrialists specializing in technical research will visit Jordan shortly to discuss prospects of cooperation between the two countries.

On the Gulf war, Gandhi said his country opposes every foreign presence in the Arab Gulf region as it contributes to prolonging the Iraq-Iran war.

He also said that he opposes any sanctions or embargoes against Iran because the U.S. experience has shown the failure of such a measure after the "Irangate" scandal.

He called on all nations to exert pressure on the parties to the conflict to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 on the termination of the war.

On his country's relations with Pakistan, Gandhi said that he had presented a program for normalizing political, economic, and cultural relations with Pakistan, and he is still awaiting Pakistani President Ziaul Haq's reply to this program.

He said India possesses evidence and proof of Pakistan's role in supporting the Sikh separatist movement in the Indian state of Punjab. He also referred to the "risk of the Pakistani nuclear program."

On a question about the Nonaligned Movement, the Indian prime minister said: "Since its establishment, the movement has achieved a great deal. It contributed to resolving some regional problems and imposing balance in the political weight of the movement's members." However, he called for the return of this movement to its roots and the philosophy for which it was established, especially in a world where the relations between the superpowers have changed, and political and economic balances of power have also changed.

Departs Amman 13 Jul

JN1307114288 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Mrs Gandhi, and members of their accompanying delegation left Amman this morning at the conclusion of a 3-day official visit to Jordan. During his stay, the Indian prime minister met with his majesty the king and his royal highness the crown prince, and he also held talks with Prime Minister Zayd al- Rifa'i and senior officials. Talks between the two sides focused on Middle East issues, international problems of common interest, as well as bilateral relations.

Mr and Mrs Gandhi also visited a number of cultural as well as historical sites in Jordan. The Indian prime minister and Mrs Gandhi were seen off at the airport by the prime minister and his wife, the chief of the royal court, the chief chamberlain, and a number of senior civic and military officials as well as the Indian ambassador in Amman and the Jordanian ambassador in New Delhi.

AL-RA'Y Praises Relations With India

JN1207082888 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Jul 88 pp 1,20

[Editorial: "Jordanian-Indian Relations"]

[Text] With great welcome, Jordan yesterday received Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, his wife, and the delegation accompanying him.

If the visit is the first by an Indian prime minister to Jordan, there is no doubt that the distinguished relations between the two friendly countries have always been a model for mutual respect and joint cooperation in many fields, especially political, trade, economic, and cultural.

Jordanian-Indian relations are remarkably long-standing, characterized by the constant good relationship between the Hashemite family, represented by His Majesty King Husayn, and the first pioneers who liberated India, represented by Jawaharlal Nehru, the late grandfather of Rajiv Gandhi who was India's first prime minister, and by the late Indira Gandhi, Rajiv's mother and former Indian prime minister.

As a result of these distinguished and long-standing relations, the views of the two friendly countries are identical on many issues, especially the Israeli aggression against the Arab nation and the Iraq-Iran war. This identity was associated with positive and courageous Indian stands.

It called for the Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 and supported the land-for-peace principle for which Jordan has called. It also supported the call for convening an international conference to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and backed the call for an immediate halt to the Iraq-Iran war on the bases of Security Council Resolution No 598 in its entirety and in accordance with the sequence of its clauses.

Thus, the Indian policy has proven a real harmony between stands and practices. This policy managed to stand firm and continue to adhere to its principled characteristics and morals.

It should also be noted that India has realized the importance of the association between political support and economic cooperation. This is represented in India importing large quantities of Jordanian phosphate. India is now the most important importer of this vital commodity.

Jordanian-Indian relations represent a strong bridge between India and the Arab world, which the Indian policy helped build. It is, therefore, natural that the continuous progress in these relations opens wide and new horizons for more fruitful Arab-Indian relations.

We reiterate our welcome to Jordan's friend, guest Rajiv Gandhi. We are confident that his visit will further promote the relations between our friendly countries and, consequently, Arab-Indian relations.

Israeli Forces Advance Toward Al-Biqa' Village

NC1307111788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1052 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] According to reports received from security sources a short while ago, Israeli enemy forces are trying to enter Qinya village in western Al-Biqa' under cover of heavy artillery fire.

Clash With Resistance

NC1307152788 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] According to reports from western Al-Biqa', a Zionist armored force comprised of 10 vehicles and approximately 80 troops advanced more than 5 km from the occupied border strip at 1330 today. The force reached the southern suburb of Libbaya, in western Al-Biqa', where it clashed with groups of the Islamic resistance, with various types of automatic weapons and rockets being used.

Zionist enemy artillery emplacements in Marj 'Uyun and Ibil al-Saqy intervened and shelled the area of the clashes. Two Zionist helicopters also took part in the operation. They raked the areas of Qilya, Libbaya, Zillaya, and Yuhmur.

An Islamic resistance source has said that the occupation forces and their agents tried at noon today to advance on two axes in western Al-Biqa': Dallafah-Qilya and Jabal al-Dahr. Violent clashes took place between the resistance fighters and the enemy forces. Casualties among the enemy and his agents could not be determined.

Meanwhile, an Islamic resistance source has announced that a resistance group detonated an explosive charge near an enemy vehicle on 'Alman road, killing or wounding all those inside.

Government Promises Support for UNIFIL

NC1307142188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] General (Lass Eric Walvern), the new UNIFIL commander, has stated that he has received a promise of absolute and comprehensive support from the Lebanese Government. Gen (Walvern) explained that he will attempt to stabilize the situation in the South, improve the living conditions for the southerners, open roads, and open the Tyre port.

The UNIFIL commander was speaking following his meeting with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

Government Opposes Arab League Camps Discussion

NC1407122788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Lebanon has voiced opposition to the PLO call for an emergency session of the Arab League's foreign ministers to discuss protection for the Palestinian camps. The Lebanese position has been conveyed to the League's Secretariat General.

The Lebanese memorandum states that such a session would constitute an interference in Lebanon's internal affairs, a matter which contradicts the League's charter. The memorandum cites an earlier legal ruling by the League which states that security in Lebanon is an internal affair and a matter of Lebanese sovereignty.

Afghan Foreign Minister To Visit 15 Jul

NC1407132488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry was informed today that 'Abdul Wakil, the foreign minister of Afghanistan, will arrive in Beirut tomorrow from Cyprus on a 24-hour visit to Lebanon.

During this visit, the Afghan foreign minister will meet with senior Lebanese officials to discuss the situation in Afghanistan in light of the Geneva agreement on the Soviet troop withdrwawal from Afghanistan.

Khaddam, Junblatt Discuss Lebanese Elections
JN1307172088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Well-informed sources in Damascus have said that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Walid Junblatt, leader of Lebanon's PSP, today discussed the Lebanese presidential elections scheduled to be held this summer. They also discussed the situation in the Palestinian camps following the recent fighting.

AL-BA'TH Cited on 'Arafat's Talks Proposal
JN1307123088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Jul 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Shamir Rejects Even 'Arafat's Capitulation," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says:

Enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday said he has received a proposal from Yasir 'Arafat via Romanian officials in which he calls on Israel to begin the process of direct negotiations.

Despite the Zionist delight at such a position, Shamir reiterated his rejection of an international conference and of 'Arafat's proposal. He said that the only possible thing Israel would accept would be negotiations within the framework of the Camp David accords. In other words, this means negotiations regarding the clause on the Palestinian issue included in these accords. This also means an autonomy rule, and in particular the continuation of occupation.

AL-BA'TH adds: There is a great conspiracy against solving the Palestine question and against the Palestinian people and territory. 'Arafat's clique is involved in this conspiracy. In light of this conspiracy, 'Arafat's clique fabricates painful and regrettable incidents here and there to serve this conspiracy and its near and remote objectives.

Otherwise, why have Abu Sharif's document and 'Arafat's proposal regarding negotiations with the enemy coincided with the attempts to inflame the security situation in the camps in Lebanon?

Moreover, why is the fabrication of incidents against Syria in particular, especially since Syria is the only party that is confronting these suspect plans, taking into consideration that this stand is known by Syria's friends and enemies? Had it not been for Syria and its brave stand, the region would have been turned into an Israeli-U.S. lake.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria will not allow this clique to have an unrestricted right to dispose of the cause at it wants or, to be more accurate, as the masters of this deviant clique want.

Syria will never allow this clique or any other side to dispose of a cause that is the possession of the masses of the entire Arab nation.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says:" All sides must know that Israel does not seek a just and lasting peace. What Israel wants is Arab capitulation. This is why it is waiting for more concessions by elements such as 'Arafat's clique.

It is very urgent to adopt a clear and frank position toward these elements due to the fact that the situation can no longer tolerate such stands and because conspiracy is clear and treason is clearer.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Demand Direct POW Talks With Moscow

BK1307165888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1621 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 13 (AFP)—The Afghan mujahidin seven-party alliance Wednesday demanded direct talks with Moscow on the release of Soviet prisoners in Afghanistan.

This decision thwarts, for the moment at least, the Soviet desire for International Committee of the Red Cross involvement in such negotiations, reliable sources said.

In a communique published in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, the mujahidin said several international groups had told them of Moscow's wish to discuss the fate of Soviet prisoners.

But if the Soviet Union wished to discuss the prisoners who want to return, it must do so directly with the alliance, the communique said.

Moscow says 313 soldiers have been listed as missing in Afghanistan since the Red Army's intervention in 1979.

Between 200 and 250 of them are prisoners of various guerrilla commanders, diplomatic sources here said.

Alliance leader Mir Sayyed Gaylani Wednesday met in Peshawar a Red Cross delegation and "promised" the prisoners' issue would be discussed again by the mujahidin group's supreme council, a communique said.

The mujahidin have several times said they will demand material and political compensation as well as the release of guerrillas detained by the Kabul regime in exchange for the release of Soviet prisoners.

Such negotiations could only reach a successful conclusion after the withdrawal of the Soviet Army from Afghanistan, which is due to be completed by February 15, 1989, Afghan rebels say.

'Extremist Elements' Kill 10 in Gardeyz

LD1307181388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Extremist elements, professional criminals, martyred 10 compatriots today, including women and children, by firing surface-to-surface missiles on residential areas of Gardeyz, in the center of Paktia Province.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of this inhuman action, five houses, four shops, and the vehicles of several citizens were also destroyed.

Security Forces Purchase Stinger Missile

LD1307182888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] In accordance with a decree of the Republic of Afghanistan in connection with the purchase of weapons from the armed opposition groups, a "Stinger" surface-to-air missile was purchased recently.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that this missile was supplied to the extremist groups to shoot down passenger aircraft. It was purchased by the security forces at a fixed price, which includes the rocket launcher.

Missiles, Launch System Captured Near Char Rig

LD1207205588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section reports that a launch system for the U.S.-made "Stinger" surface-to-air missile was discovered recently and seized by the brave border troops in Herat Province. The report adds that an extremist groups' ammunition convoy, which was moving toward Herat Province in order to disrupt the peaceful life of the people and to shoot down civilian aircraft, was discovered recently in the area around Char Rig, and its guardians were crushed.

During this operation, which took place with the cooperation of the local people, a launch system for surface-to-surface missiles, 3 heavy machineguns, 3 light machineguns, a radio communications system, and 16 surface-to-surface missiles were seized by the border troops. The enemy arms and ammunition were destroyed.

Commentator Denies 'Extremist' Leaders in Country

LD1207225488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] A BAKHTAR political commentator writes:

Western propaganda units have unleashed a deafening hue and cry, saying that Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and heads of other extremist groups have entered the country to control and supervise the subversive activities of their armed detachments against the Afghan people.

If this propaganda is correct, it is indicative of the fact that when life gets tough for them the heads of the bands enter the scene themselves and want to promote more murder and subversion against our innocent people. However, the fact is that these so-called leaders of the mujahidin, who have imposed war and bloodshed on our people, have never had the courage to come to Afghanistan and participate in a face-to-face war against the country's Armed Forces, because they do not trust even their very closest individuals [as heard].

It is no secret that their guards are Pakistani nationals and that security has been maintained by the intelligence services of Pakistan and the CIA. The armed commanders inside the country, who are directly participating in the war and most of whom are now weary of war and fratricide, have several times stated that their leaders, who have built their nests in Pakistan, live in very luxurious conditions achieved at the price of the Afghan people's blood, and yet Afghan children are still being killed or injured in the futile war. They have frequently said that their leaders have collected millions of dollars in foreign banks, continue their luxurious living, and marry young girls.

The Western propaganda which dramatically announces the arrival of the leaders of the extremist bands inside Afghanistan is not accidental. This serves two aims: First, to boost the defeated combat morale of the extremist armed groups and, second, to reduce the protest of the armed commanders against their leaders.

Our experience has shown well that whenever the country's Armed Forces have dealt fatal blows to the war-mongering forces, and the extremists have been faced with decisive defeat, the propaganda machines have engaged in collecting fabricated reports and lies to strengthen the combat morale.

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar is no more than a cowardly [word indistinct] under the protection of the Islamabad regime. The report of his coming to Muhammad Agha of Lowgar, or of Muhammad Agha's being captured by the extremists is only a lie.

There is no doubt that the extremists, because of their inhumanity, cowardly attack cities and crowded population centers with long-range missiles. For example, they have carried out such savage actions and explosions in Kabul and have stained in blood a number of our innocent compatriots. However, this does not mean that Gulbuddin has arrived in Kabul or has captured Kabul. If Western propaganda were correct so far, then Jalalabad, Paktia, Khowst, Qandahar, Ghazni, Zabol, and others would already be in the hands of the extremists.

There are currently no Soviet forces in 18 of the country's provinces, but the security and order of these regions have been maintained by the country's Armed Forces. The extremists have been unable to advance, but have carried out savage actions in these areas. The Armed Forces have dealt them fatal blows.

The reality is that neither the leaders of the extremist bands nor the Western propaganda organs, by spreading misleading lies, can change the defeated morale of the extremists and the peace-loving feelings of the Afghan people. All Afghan people know that the leaders of the extremist bands are the main agents of the murder of the innocent people of Afghanistan. They have no place among our people in any part of our country, and even they do not feel safe among their most trusted individuals. Thus, there is no question of their participation at the war fronts against the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Najibullah, Sharq Cable Greetings to Mongolia

LD1207221888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 11, BAKHTAR—A congratulatory message has been sent by Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, to Ulaanbaatar.

The message which was cabled on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the victory of the Mongolian People's revolution was addressed to Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) and Dumaagiyn Sodnom, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Mongolia.

Confidence has been expressed in the message that ever-more successes will be achieved in consolidation of relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of Mongolia.

A message has also been sent by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan 'Abdul Wakil to his Mongolian counterpart on the same occasion.

India

Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission Fails

BK1307124188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] The Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle mission to put the Rohini satellite into orbit has failed. Soon after the blast off this afternoon, the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, Professor U.R. Rao, told a news conference in Sriharikota that some abnormality was noticed in the motor after the first stage of ignition. The initial blast off was, however, perfect.

Dr Rao said the details of the tracking at various stations and the recorded material at Sriharikota have to be seen before arriving at a conclusion about the cause of the mission's failure.

During the final countdown there were two holdups of 10 minutes each. Three minutes thirty seconds after a perfect lift off, the control center lost telemetry tracking of the vehicle, following which radio links were lost giving rise to suspicion about the mission's success. The signal, scheduled for 12 minutes after takeoff, which would have meant successful placement of the Rohini satellite in orbit, did not come.

More on Failed Mission

BK1307160888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle [ASLV] D2 mission to put the Rohini satellite into orbit has failed. Soon after the blast off at about 1450 this afternoon [0920 GMT], the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, Professor U.R. Rao, told a news conference at Sriharikota that some abnormality was noticed in the motor after the first stage of ignition. [passage omitted]

This was the second ASLV failure. The first ASLV test in March last year failed when the rocket fell into the sea due to non-ignition of the first stage motor.

The ASLV-D2 weighing 40 tons and 24 meters tall was to put into near circular orbit the stretched 140 kilogram Rohini satellite 400 kilometers above the earth. The satellite was carrying two payloads including one for studying the burst of celestial gamma rays.

Professor Rao said the defects noted in the ASLV-D2 mission will be corrected in the next project. He said failure of this mission will not affect other on-going programs. The cost of the rocket was 6.5 crore rupees and the satellite 2 crores. He ruled out the possibility of salvaging the rocket and the satellite from the Bay of Bengal.

Vote Counting for By-Elections Continues

BK1407034188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Mr Khurshid Ahmed of Lok Dal has been declared elected from the Faridabad Lok Sabha constituency. He had established a lead of 155,411 votes over his nearest Congress-I rival Mr J.P. Nagar. Mr Khurshid Ahmed polled 342,715 votes, while Mr Nagar secured 187,304. While declaring the results, the returning officer, Mr Manik Sonawani, observed that due to some technical reasons, the margin can vary. Earlier, Mr Tayeb Hussain, also of the Lok Dal, was declared elected from the Taoru assembly constituency, defeating his Congress-I rival, Mr Hidayat Khan.

Meanwhile, further counting of votes in the Udahmpur parliamentary constituency scheduled for today is not taking place as most of the ballot boxes from 14 polling stations have not yet reached Kathua. Our Jammu correspondent understands that ballot boxes from five interior polling stations will be brought by helicopters if weather permits. The ballot boxes from eight polling stations of Banihal segment will be brought by road to Kathua as soon as the Jammu-Srinagar national highway reopens.

Police Kill 3 'Terrorists' in Punjab

BK1407090588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, three terrorists, including the dreaded Baljit Singh, have been killed in different incidents. The hard-core terrorist, Baljit Singh, was killed in an encounter with the security forces near village Baler Khan in Kapurthala District. His two accomplices managed to escape. People of a village in Hoshiarpur District apprehended two terrorists who broke into a house, and beat them. The terrorists later succumbed to their injuries in hospital.

Senior journalist of an Urdu daily Mr Indrajit Sud was gunned down by terrorists in Jullundur last night. A farmer was shot dead in Amritsar District by some terrorists, who intruded into his house last night.

More on Punjab 'Terrorists'

BK1407032288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, a senior journalist, Mr Indrajit Sud, of the Urdu daily, HIND SAMACHAR, was shot dead by two terrorists in Jullundur last night. Mr Sud was returning from his office when he was attacked. He died on the spot.

In Kapurthala District, a hard-core terrorist, Baljit Singh, was killed in an encounter with the security forces near village Baler Khan. The encounter followed when the naka [patrol] party was fired upon when it challenged three suspicious-looking persons. Two other terrorists managed to escape.

In Faridkot District, police have arrested 10 terrorists and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition from their possession.

West Bengal Chief Rules Out Interim Hill Council

BK1307160588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has ruled out the possibility of formation of any interim hill development council before formally setting up the council.

Talking to newsmen in Siliguri, he said the state government will go ahead with the election process within the framework of the hill council proposals soon after an agreement is signed. Replying to a question, Mr Basu said he is yet to hear anything from the Center about the next round of talks to be held in New Delhi. Any suggestion from the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] leadership on the hill council proposals will be discussed at an all-party meeting in Calcutta.

Asked whether he would release all the GNLF activists held under the Antiterrorist Act, Mr Basu said those arrested on specific murder charges cannot be released. He said the demand for inclusion of the word Gurkha in the nomenclature of the proposed hill council will be considered at a later stage.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on War, UN Session

NC1407064888 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1740 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Interview with 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, by unidentified correspondent of the Vision of the Republic of Iran in one of the "war sectors" on 13 July—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] In view of the statement issued on the retreat from Halabjah and the changes that have taken place on the fronts based on the recently announced program, we ask that you give further details of this for the people of our country in your capacity as acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In the last 2 or 3 months it was felt that the enemies of Islam and the Islamic revolution are very serious about not allowing Iran to vindicate its rights, and that the war should reach results desired by the innocent party. As a result, discussions were held among high-ranking officials, and we reached the conclusion that we are forced to make serious changes in the war program and our defense.

The issue was extensively reviewed from every aspect, from the military as well as propaganda aspect. Taking into account the aspirations of the revolution, the goals of our defense, and the propaganda aspect of the situation, it was decided there should be some changes in the organization of the Armed Forces which will be appropriate for long-range defense.

Our understanding is that the enemies of Islam do not want us to reach our goals, so we must intensify our efforts and prepare ourselves for a long period. If we could shorten the period with some moves, that would be fine. However, if we cannot, we must be prepared to wage the war over a long period to reach our goals.

Of course, the first thing was to examine the condition of our forces. I was made responsible for this section on the imam's orders, as he gave very definite instructions. The investigation of the military aspect, taking into account the new conditions created by the war, resulted in our conclusion that it is necessary to make changes in the positions established by our forces. The withdrawal from Halabjah is one of them.

There are other instances, some of which have already been carried out, and others will be carried out later. Some events have recently taken place that we did not wish to happen. Not everything that has happened lately has gone according to our program. As far as the military aspect is concerned, these changes are based on the new program, which we must follow with fundamental and strong action.

As regards the cultural, propaganda, and political aspects, we must make some moves which are related to the above. It cannot be separated from them. This is because the revolution has some aspirations and goals, and our defense has the same aspirations and goals. Unfortunately, as a result of the work of our enemies and news imperialism, these goals have been overshadowed by the current war events.

Propaganda has created the false belief that Iran is intent on capturing territory and has occupational aims. Then there is the issue of the Arabs and non-Arabs, and other issues: We are warmongers and Iraq wants peace.

In our military plans we should definitely move in a way so as to render the enemy incapable of waging such poisonous propaganda. We know that the Islamic revolution has never been interested in conquering others' territory and has never wanted to impose the revolution through conquest. Our defense is not based on the conquest of territory. The imam's latest statement in response to the message by Grand Ayatollah Montazeri shows the nature of the issue.

He said: This is the clash between the quest for justice and the quest for oppression. If the enemy succeeds in portraying the opposite of the goal; that is, although the enemy is the aggressor and we are the defender, if it succeeds in portraying us as the aggressor and the expansionist and itself as the defender of peace, then of course it is possible that we will lose the people's hearts by conquering territory.

The opinion of the people of Iraq, the Arabs of the region, and even the world may be poisoned into thinking that Iran may have expansionist and material aims in continuing its defense. So our propaganda must definitely be based on justice, which is a rightful goal. It should be a struggle against the enemies' obstructionism, a struggle which is a popular and rightful course.

Our military action must be alongside this course so that correct propaganda is carried out. Our political action should be such that it does not contradict military and cultural activities. We have planned for this as well. The changes that have taken place recently which you have seen relate to the military, political, and cultural strategy.

In light of the fact that the statements are based on the presence of the people, the issue is this: Prior to attaining our organizational aims; that is, we must base our defense on fixed permanent forces on the fronts, it is possible the

enemy may get an opportunity to interfere in our work. Therefore, in the short term, we have no choice but to rely on volunteer forces. Of course, volunteer forces must always play a role in the Islamic crusade. It is the nature of the Islamic crusade to be voluntarily present in the crusade. So we will never close this door to volunteers.

However, we cannot rely on a volunteer force because it is optional and can decline or increase in numbers depending on the circumstances. In the new strategy our basic reliance is on the regular and organized forces. We have started this work and laid its foundations, and we have made remarkable progress. The first important action was the formation of a headquarters that combines the necessary elements for expanding the combat organization of the Armed Forces, and God willing, it will work comprehensively.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, until now the country's officials have stressed the need for the presence of volunteer forces on the fronts and we have witnessed their extensive presence along the length of the fronts. At the present juncture, do you envisage any special form that the people's presence on the fronts will take?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As you have seen, the people have until now managed the fronts in general, but now the situation has changed. As you see, the enemies have concentrated all their efforts on saving Saddam from the predicament that he has created for himself. We must be present on the scene in a way that matches the enemies' efforts. Our future goal is to use regular forces.

However, until we reach that stage, we need more extensive participation by the people. Considering the matters recently stressed, as well as the new conditions, the people must be present on the fronts more than in the past.

[Correspondent] In your previous interview you referred to the country's new combat organization. Could you please elaborate further on the organization and the role of the forces in it?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The new organization that you mention cannot be considered a new organization for the war. We will organize the means of using the Armed Forces in a better manner so that there is coordination among the Armed Forces, the IRGC, the Gendarmerie, the other armed forces, the Islamic komitehs, and all those who participate in the war. The expansion of a combat organization is not to be considered a new organization. The Armed Forces, within its own framework, uses the forces on the rear lines.

The headquarters; the ministries; the various departments and other affiliated organizations; the IRGC cadres on the rear lines, in the cities, and at other points; and the conscripts are all to be increasingly utilized for expanding our combat organization. The capacity for utilizing the services of our conscripts is far more than we are using at present. The people's forces are also naturally working within the IRGC. Our objective is to utilize forces in greater numbers and with more suitable preparation, with the use of government resources and by economizing on the repeated use of the Armed Forces' capabilities.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi, a few days ago we heard the news that a Greek vessel had been attacked by speedboats. Attempts were made to portray this attack as retaliation for the U.S. warship's attack on the Iranian passenger aircraft. Could you tell us which objectives are being pursued by news imperialism by making such insinuations?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] From the moment after the disaster of the aircraft's downing, we expected them to create an incident to overshadow this, just as the Kuwaiti aircraft was hijacked during the Halabjah disaster. We declared from the start that the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy at this juncture is not retaliation of this kind. Fortunately, our remarks were extensively reported and the whole world was made aware.

It is natural that those who are our friends and the supporters of the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy would not resort to such action, especially in light of the policy that I had announced and which the others had reiterated as well. Those who committed this action did not do it in support of Iranian policy. It is contrary to our policy.

It is natural that we should state that this is an act of mischief. If we do not consider this an act of mischief, we have to say that those involved are people with their own intentions which will be revealed later. It seems that the Greeks have found some clues. If there is no mischief, they will decisively discover that Iran could not have had any links with this incident and never will have. Even now, it is gradually becoming clear that either the uproar is the creation of our enemies to obscure the airliner issue currently before the UN Security Council, or it is something very different.

[Correspondent] Tomorrow, the issue of the missile attack by the U.S. aggressor forces against the Islamic Republic of Iran's passenger plane is to be discussed at the UN Security Council. We have witnessed previous acts of aggression by the United States in the Persian Gulf. In your opinion, what will be the outcome of the session?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We should not be very optimistic about the results of the session. We Have learned this from experience. We have always been pessimistic in our contacts with these international organizations because we see that they are under the influence of expansionist and oppressive powers.

This is the first time that we have officially complained to the Security Council, which is a test for the organization. The eyes of all the world are on the issue now, especially to ascertain why Iran lodged this protest since it has always expressed loathing for the Security Council,

and also to see how the Council members are willing to respond to this test. I am not of course extremely pessimistic. We must not view all people who work in the Security Council in the same way.

We are concerned about the influence of those powers that are Iran's enemies. They have a great deal of influence, but there are those who are trying to rid themselves of the illegitimate influence. I am not viewing the issue with pessimism, nor do we expect a miracle from the Security Council. In any case, this is a place where people pay attention to arguments. We can put our arguments before the people of the world through the Security Council and hope it will emerge from this test with honor.

If such a thing should happen, it would create a focus of hope in the heart of the Third World that the most specific hostile ranks will be condemned by all. An independent country which does not have any affiliations with oppressive powers is poised against a superpower which has been throwing the weight of its power everywhere. It is a historical test for an international organization.

[Corrspondent] Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] May you be successful.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Praises Army Divisions
LD1307174188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] According to a report from General Command Headquarters, the H.H. the Prophet Division of the IRGC and the 3d Brigade of the 28th Sanandaj Division of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were praised by the acting commander in chief of the armed forces, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for bravery and heroic resistance against the aggressor forces of the Iraqi Ba'thist army in Sharhani and Panjwin general area.

According to an IRNA report the acting commander in chief's praise for the operational forces was conveyed to the commanders of the two divisions.

Spokesman on Managua Expulsion of U.S. Diplomats
LD1307164288 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry today expressed support for the Nicaraguan Government's expulsion of U.S. diplomats from Managua following their illegal activities in that Central American country.

Morteza Sarmadi said the arrogant U.S. Administration resorts to plots and illegal activities under various guises incuding the diplomatic mask. These measures are specially more extensive in independent and revolutionary countries which do not want to bow to the U.S. expansionist policies.

Sarmadi, terming the measure of the Nicaraguan Government as "revolutionary", said alertness of third world nations and their struggle against U.S. aggression are the only means for ending Washington's plots against the Third World.

The Nicaraguan Government expelled the U.S. ambassador in Managua along with seven other American diplomats Tuesday.

Commentary Urges 'Extensive' Defense Planning
LD1307150088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Political commentary: "War, New Conditions, and New Requirements"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday in two separate statements issued by the Armed Forces General Command and by the cabinet and referring to new conditions on the battlefronts, it was announced that our forces have withdrawn from the Halabjah region. The cabinet statement says this measure was taken after due consideration.

As the brave Iranian nation knows, the enemy has carried out certain plans in the battlefronts during the past few months and by making use of all its capabilities and equipment and with the complete support of the imperialists. Our forces have retreated from a number of positions in the southern, western, and northern fronts.

It is clear that the new war conditions are the result of the direct and indirect intervention of the imperialists and supporters of Saddam. In the same way that from the beginning the Islamic Revolution and the revolutionary people were confronted with the imposed war, they are now confronted with the imposition of the plans and operations by the same enemies of the revolution.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the great military plans of our country's Armed Forces during nearly 8 years of the war have inflicted major blows upon the enemy. Operations such as "Fath ol-Mobin" and "Bayt ol-Moqaddas" will always top the list of history's great military plans.

However, in the face of the new conditions which are new aspects of the imposition of imperialist plans, it is our duty according to the Koran not to become faint-hearted or dejected. We should know that if we have faith, we shall we be superior. [passage omitted]

As the cabinet announced, we should review what we can do to confront the enemy's plan. In answer to this question, we should say that our first duty is to analyze carefully the past and then plan extensively for the future. In this comprehensive study all mistakes and careless should be studied.

It must be noted that, 8 years after the start of the imposed war, the country's economic and political capabilities have not been properly placed in the service of the war. At a time when the oil crisis was not so intense in the world as it is today, unfortunately some of the dollars earned were spent on unnecessary, nonessential, and luxury items. Neither were other foreign and domestic earnings of the government properly allocated.

Furthermore, some of the political capabilities of the people and the revolution were wasted on political rivalries or on unplanned moves. Nevertheless, it should be borne in mind that during that period the fighters of Islam and the countru's armed forces by making use of the same inadequate resources created many epics which amazed the world.

However, as for the future, what the revolution and the country need is, first of all, to draw up of a clear strategy with long-term and short-term goals for the war. In addition, as noted in the cabinet statement, extensive plans for continuing our defense should be made. There should be planning at the leadership level and operations; plans to attract forces and use them; and, finally, plans to employ all the resources of the country and the people in the service of the war.

It is clear that the performance of these tasks requires time. Meanwhile, the enemy, with the assistance of the imperialists, may exert greater pressure on us. However, if our strategy and plans are carried out with complete care and without haste or simplification, we shall bring about very important changes in the future course of the war.

Velayati Appeals to UN To Condemn U.S. 'Crime'

LD1307163488 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 13 Jul 88

["Chance for Security Council To Redeem Its Scarred Reputation—Velayati on U.S. Crime"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Washington, July 13, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati held separate meetings with the current security council chairman, and the U.N. secretary-general at the organization's headquarters in New York Tuesday.

During the meetings, Velayati, referring to the Security Council's dark record of dealing with international issues unjustly, expressed hope that the body could redeem its reputation by taking a just stance against the July 3 U.S. downing of an Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf.

On July 3, the cruiser "USS Vincennes" fired two surface-to-air missiles at the regular 5-days a week Dubayy-bound Iran Air flight 655, splitting it in mid-air and killing all 290 passengers and crew aboard, shortly after the airbus took off from Bandar-e 'Abbas airport.

There were 66 under 12-year-old children and 38 foreigners of various nationalities aboard the downed Iran Air flight.

In his meeting with Brazil's M. Paulo Nogueira Batista, current Security Council chairman, Velayati, saying that Iranian officials are yet to see the council take a just stand on Iran, expressed hope that this time the outcome of the council session under Batista's chairmanship would be fruitful.

Velayati made it clear that the U.S. must be condemned for its unmanly crime in the Persian Gullf and called for withdrawal of all foreign forces from the region.

Since the presence of foreign naval fleets in the Persian Gulf, Velayati said, attacks on ships have doubled and security in the region has seriously been jeopardized.

In response, Batista expressed deep regret over the U.S. downing of the Iranian jetliner that claimed the lives of 290 passengers and crew aboard. He also termed as positive Iran's participation in the council session, the first since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

The Security Council chairman promised to make all necessary coordination with Iran in solving its issues.

U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, too expressed his sympathy with the people and Government of Iran for the Iran Air tragedy, in his meeting with Velayati yesterday afternoon.

Perez de Cuellar made it clear that after learning about the agonizing incident he took stance against it and called for determining those responsible for the crime.

The U.N. chief called the Islamic Republic a victim of the tragedy, hoping that the Security Council could issue a just resolution in this regard.

Velayati termed the unmanly U.S. downing of the Iranian passenger plane "outrageous" and dismissed any comparison with the 1983 Soviet downing of a South Korean airliner, because he said the latter was flying over the Soviet Union's airspace. The Security Council, according to its duties, should condemn the U.S. crime and take a decision on the pull-out of American troops from the Persian Gulf, Velayati concluded.

On July 3, the intruding U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf trampled the sacred laws of international air traffic security, by dastardly shooting down a routine Iran Air flight flying through air traffic corridor S-59 (26.43 degrees north, 56.3 degrees east).

There were no survivors among the 290 passengers on board. The self-contradicting statements coming out of Washington since then, confirm beyond doubt that the whole thing was pre-planned and intentional.

Phone-In Program Focuses on Iran Air Incident
LD0707223588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 7 Jul 88

[The "In Line With People, in Step With Officials" program with Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam; and Mohammad Reza Majidi, managing director of Iran Air; moderated by unidentified correspondent—live]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to you, dear listeners, and blessings on the pure souls of the innocent passengers of the Iranian passenger airliner who were tragically killed by U.S. criminals. We begin this week's program "In Line With People, in Step With Officials" live from the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Once again, the United States has committed one of the vilest crimes in history. Once again imperialism has shed the blood of innocent, defenseless people of our country, this time overtly. Once again, the hatred of our nation's greatest enemy has manifested itself in the vilest air disaster of history at the hands of the most criminal regime of the world.

It was an open attack on the passenger airliner, an attack on 290 innocent human beings who were found guilty without trial in the court of the world's greatest criminals and who were sentenced to undeserved death and martyrdom. They were not the first victims of the criminality and tyranny of world imperialism, led by the United States, nor will they be the last. They are among tens of thousands of martyrs who have lost their lives in our country due to their struggle against the tyranny of imperialism. [passage omitted]

This passenger airliner was attacked while it was still inside Iranian air space and was gaining altitude. The Iranian people have the right to take appropriate revenge on the United States for this crime. [passage omitted]

We should not leave the United States alone, so that with open hands and with a carefree mind it may continue its savage crimes and be tempted to repeat such odious incidents. The United States should not be given an opportunity to justify its great crime and diffuse the wave of world anger, revulsion, and condemnation of its crime. The United States should be crushed under the load of responsibility for this crime and should be attacked and blamed from every direction.

This requires that everyone know his duty in this connection and act according to his responsibility. The United States should be shamed of this vile crime. This aim can be enforced by nations, who through their retaliatory actions, can exert such heavy pressure on the United States that in disgrace and shame, it will be forced to regret its bestiality and impudence and to apologize to the world. The blows should be so deadly and effective that they can be regarded an eloquent response by various nations, a retaliatory response against this major U.S. crime.

This crime is a consequence of the aggressive presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf, and it calls into question their presence in the region. Foreign fleets came to the region under the pretext of protecting the security of shipping lanes. However, from the start they caused insecurity and tension in the region. Instead of ensuring security, they intensified insecurity.

The downing of the Iranian Airbus, attacks on Iranian civilian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, the repeated violation of Iranian airspace in the southern coasts, the massacre of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca are situations resulting from the aggressive and illegitimate presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. The United States came to the Persian Gulf with her intense hated to destroy our nation.

Iranian interests require that we do not take one step backward in that region. Therefore, as long as the aggressive U.S. fleet is present in the region, and as long as the world community is indifferent to this clear onslaught against Iran, insecurity will afflict all the countries. If the "Vincennes" acted in self-defense, our nation, too, should engage in self-defense. We should not allow the United States's illegal presence in the region to be turned into an ordinary and long-lasting affair. Resistance in the Persian Gulf will be resistance on all fronts. The United States and her allies and friends should pay a heavy price for the massacre of the 290 innocent passengers of Iran Air Flight 655.

Dear listeners, this week's "In Line With People, in Step With Officials" program is devoted to a discussion on the most vile crime in history. We have invited some esteemed guests to take part in this program. At the moment, in the broadcasting studio of the IRI radio Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Mr Mohammad Reza Majidi, managing director of Iran Air, are present.

We shall discuss any questions you ask, in addition to any other remarks the gentlemen wish to make. I would also add that we are expecting other guests to join us. However, until they come, I would like to put the first question to Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam. [passage omitted] I would like to ask Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam to discuss the evidence and the reasons showing that this incident was planned in advance.

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I am very happy to have this opportunity to be with you and explain some of the crimes that

have been committed against our nation. After expressing my congratulations and condolences to the lord of the age, the imam of the ummah, the martyr-nurturing ummah, and particularly the families of the martyrs of this tragic and instructive incident, I shall answer to the best of my abilities your question. One day before the incident, the regional commander of the U.S. Navy, Mr George Crist, made some comments, including the following: We are looking for an excuse to attack Iran.

As you know, this event took place on 3 July, and 4 July is the anniversary of U.S. independence. It seems the Americans were planning to use that holiday to put on a show of force with their questionable presence in the Persian Gulf, in order to provide justification for their presence in the region.

From a technical point of view, special details have been provided by technical experts which I can summarize as follows: From the time the airliner established contact with the airport tower in Bandar-e 'Abbas, about 23 or 25 minutes before the launching of the missile, it was quite clear to the Americans, (who control all the airports of the region), that the Iranian airports and most particularly the airports on the Persian Gulf coastline, that the aircraft was a passenger airliner. In addition, the cruiser's equipment which committed the crime—very complex and advanced radar worth nearly half a billion dollars—cl;early identified the aircraft; its difference from a military aircraft was quite clear.

Mr Majidi can describe this better. The flight was full of fuel, it was fully loaded, it was full of passengers. Naturally, the speed of its take-off was quite different from the take-off speed of a fighter aircraft. When it was airborne, 13 minutes after take-off it could have been seen with the naked eye even from the cruiser. This is the second proof. The third proof is that a cruiser in such circumstances monitors all transmissions in the region. The transmission sent by any airliner, which identify it as a passenger airliner, can be received by any cruiser.

However, the most important fact is that the attack was made in our territorial waters, waters which are part of our territory. Aggression against these waters is the same as aggression against our territory. It is there that the airliner was attacked. The cruiser knew very well what it was doing. Such aggression could not have been carried out without the permission of a country's president, without the permission of the highest decisionmakers in the United States. It should be emphatically stated that permission for the attack was issued in advance, that permission was received in advance. Even if the plane had been a military aircraft, they had no right to attack any aircraft anywhere, whether military or civilian.

Their presence here is illegal, and it has been imposed. However, to make it absolutely clear that they had prepared themselves to exploit the situation on the anniversary of their independence, to make a show of force, and to justify their questionable presence—even the U.S. people are asking many questions about the presence of U.S. fleet here—it is certain they had received permission to attack us inside our territory, inside our area of control.

The captain of the cruiser and its military commanders received this permission, and they acted upon it. Fortunately, the lack of a hasty response by the Islamic Republic to this aggression and our thoughtful response forced them to postpone the plans which we believe they had. They knew what the propaganda and political consequences of an attack on such an airliner would be. However, they had expected us to react, and they expected that the propaganda effects of this incident would be covered up as the result of the clashes that would follow, and that they could substitute the propaganda points which the United States would gain as the result of our immediate response to such a crime for the propaganda which we are now witnessing in the world.

Fortunately, however, as the result of our forebearance, as the result of our forces' discipline and as the result of the way that we dealt with the incident, the propaganda and political climate of the world is now completely in our favor. The Americans are in a completely defensive position. They are trying very hard to divert world attention to other issues.

Let me give you an example. The report about the meeting between the international undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry and UN officials about chemical weapons was transmitted today by radio—including the Voice of America and U.S. news agencies—48 hours late. Other news agencies, like IRNA, transmitted this report 48 hours ago. We do not think it unlikely that the Americans, with the assistance of Saddam and their other agents, may try to fabricate some news here and there in the world deliberately, and to make use of those reports to erase or divert the course of propaganda which exists in the world regarding this crime and Iran's innocence. They are using any excuse, even news which comes from us.

In any case, in answer to your question, even if there were no other factors, the fact that they attacked the airliner in our territorial waters, in an area within our territory, should be sufficient to demonstrate that they received advance permission from the U.S. President and high-ranking decisionmakers in the United States and that it coincided with the anniversary of the U.S. Independence Day. The difficulties which they faced in justifying this action show that the scheme which they had prepared in advance did not proceed according to their plan, and it was defeated.

You remember that at first they denied it. Then they said that they had attacked an F-14. Later, they said the airliner was not in its proper flight path. However, all these lies were exposed one after another.

[Correspondent] Now let me raise another question. I will now ask Mr Majidi, the managing director of Iran Air, to describe the incident.

[Majidi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to the imam of the ummah and the aware Iranian people. I also offer condolences to the families of martyrs, whose funeral was held today.

At 1015 local time the airliner left Bandar-e 'Abbas for Dubayy. The entire conversation between the pilot and the control tower at Bandar-e 'Abbas was normal and unexceptional. The pilot was faced with no emergency; and he did not declare any emergency. After 8 minutes, that is after 3 minutes when his contact with the control tower ended, he said goodbye to the control tower and continue on course in order to reach cruising speed. The plane was hit at 1023.

Well, the situation for the passengers who are inside the plane, with specific characteristics, problems of pressure inside the plane and outside. [sentence as heard] The airplane is built in such a way that if struck by an object, it will explode. Unfortunately, the missile hit the plane which then exploded in the sky.

The corpses which the rescue teams later recovered reveal that the blast wave hit the heads of the passengers. The heads which were higher than the seats were severely damaged. The children who were positioned between the seats were damaged less. The passengers were martyred in a most agonizing way. Their corpses were generally found to be naked because of the pressure.

Of the total number of passengers we had in that flight, that is, 290 passengers, we have been able to recover from the water fewer than 200 corpses. Because they were martyred in a most tragic way we have been able to identify only some 150 of them—they have been identified by their relatives who knew of marks on their bodies.

We have not recovered large parts of the plane, large enough to be able really to carry out studies on them. That is, the civil aviation search party that went out to help the frogmen find bodies as well as plane wreckage failed to recover significant parts of wreckage because of the force of the explosion.

The black box has not yet been recovered; the search goes on. It is very painful for us, as airline authorities, as we have emotional ties with the passengers. And I hope God will give success to the ummah of Islam to cut off the root of criminal America as soon as possible. Naturally, this will be achieved. [passage omitted] These were defenseless people; they had no way of defending themselves during this flight, and naturally their spilled blood will have a great impact. God willing, America will be destroyed.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Do you have the latest news?

[Majidi] The news which I have given included the number of passengers recovered from the sea. The flight crew consisted of 16 individuals. Those who were in the cockpit have not been found; their bodies have not been found, which shows that the missile fully destroyed the front of the plane so that it is possible that these people were totally incinerated.

Those who were identified and whose bodies were in the funeral procession today include the 150 people from various provinces and towns of the country. There were others from foreign countries. The search parties organized by the Civil Aviation and others are now carrying out their work.

[Correspondent] What do you think of world reaction to the new U.S. crime? Does it seem adequate or not?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] We have generally seen two kinds of reactions. The first, which is much more far-sighted and intelligent, condemns the incident and warns about consequences for passenger aircraft and for airlines in general. It warns about the dangers to them. Others have considered a simple message of condolence to be sufficient.

It is obvious that countries allied to and united with Iraq have tried to downplay as much as possible the U.S. role and the U.S. presence in the region in this shameful act and to put more of the responsibility on the continuation of the war. But others, who have reacted more realistically and, as I said, more intelligently to the matter, have recognized the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf as the cause of the incident, the cause of the crime.

In the messages that have been received by Iranian officials, the president, the prime minister, the foreign minister, these positions can be clearly seen. Some countries such as Libya, where they have declared general mourning; such as Syria, which has given us strong support among the Arab countries; and such countries as Switzerland and France and some other European countries, have taken a positive positio. Some other countries which, unfortunately, had passengers on the airplane itself, such as Yugoslavia, have not reacted constructively to the incident; nor has the UAE or some of the other regional countries.

What the Foreign Ministry is striving for, and of which, God willing, we will see some evidence in the near future, is to clarify the dimensions of the incident and the effects it will have on peace in the region, on international air traffic, and on all air links in general. In this way we can witness a position appropriate to the incident from international institutions and from some countries which, unfortunately, have not taken a good position.

We hope that the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, will at its meeting next week express a good and constructive reaction to the matter. As you know, the United Nations also plans to have a session next

week and we hope it will express a suitable reaction. If it does not respond appropriately, the consequences of the repetition of such a crime are entirely unpredictable.

[Correspondent] Yes. Your eminence, Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iran requested an extraordinary meeting of the ICAO. Please tell us what matters were raised in this request and what decisions that organization can adopt.

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] The organization was set up for the protection of national airlines, or it would be better to say nonmilitary aircraft, and for establishing all the regulations that must be considered for the security and safety of such matters. On the day of the incident involving our aircraft, a telex was sent to that organization, because at that time the United States was completely denying the incident and later denying that it was a passenger aircraft.

We requested an expert delegation be sent to study the matter. Of course, we still hold to that request, because an expert delegation must establish that the act was deliberate and a neutral, international organization must confirm the matter. The evidence and indications that we have—I have mentioned some of them and I can explain in greater detail in a technical discussion—make it clear. That is our first request.

Next, the cause of the incident must be examined, including factors that can prevent the repetition of such an incident. To our minds, clearly this is the removal of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf. That must be requested by the council of that international organization. It must then transfer that request to the United Nations and to other councils, maybe the Security Council. Of course, they will be doing technical work not political work. But we requested that that technical work be done in a neutral manner and away from U.S. domination and influence and we are prepared to cooperate with them.

[Correspondent] Yes. Thank you very much. [passage omitted] It seems that the focus of the topics raised by the people during the past 2 days or so, their main demand, is that a suitable position be taken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with regard to this crime—to bring pressure on the U.S. Government by U.S. public opinion and the members of Congress to withdraw its Navy from the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] Thank you. Soon after the incident, we set up a headquarters in which other organs participated. What has been done is not limited to our activities only. Soon after receiving the news from our brothers in Civil Aviation, Iran Air, and the IRGC—those who were on the scene and who as eyewitnesses had even filmed the firing of the missiles and the downing of the airliner—we released the news exactly as it happened. The world learned that our reports were correct and precise, while what the Americans had put together, had distorted.... [incompete sentence as heard] Our reports exposed the Americans' false information because of our sincerity in releasing the news and also because we were sure our reports were correct.

We have contacted all the international organizations connected with this issue. We have contacted them in order to achieve our rights. These are the IATA [International Air Transport Association], the ICAO, the United Nations, the International Court of Justice in The Hague. [passage omitted]

We have also been in touch with Islamic countries as well as Islamic organisations in non-Islamic countries, asking them all for support. We have invited media correspondents to come here to report the event as it happened. A good number of them have accepted our invitation. They have been here since the day after the incident took place. It is a good opportunity to explain our position to the world and the fact that our nation has been victimized. [passage omitted]

My personal opinion is that so far we have managed to place the United States in a defensive position both politically and in the media. The kind of news which the United States releases and the way it is confronting the issue indicate that it is in a defensive position. They want to close the case. Of course, it is closed to them because they wanted to martyr a number of innocent people which they did. As far as we are concerned, the case continues.

They entered the propaganda arena at the highest level. Their own president spoke on several occasions regarding this topic, as did the U.S. chief of staff. They have the means to distort facts in the world, but fortunately, so far they have not been effective. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] A dear listener asks in a telephone call what steps have been taken or letters written by civil aviation authorities and Iran Air to the appropriate organizations. Mr Majidi, can you comment?

[Majidi] On the day of the terrible tragedy, after a committee was formed to examine the incident, the civil aviation authorities sent a letter to the ICAO requesting an extraordinary meeting. They responded, and the civil aviation authorities pursued the matter. They are planning to meet and to raise the issue and ask member-countries to condemn the U.S. Government and to increase air security. [passage omitted] If they do not react seriously and condemn the United States and stress the security of flights, no flight will ever be secure, and one can only wonder what tragedies will take place in the future. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. Mr Majidi, how can the U.S. claim of confusing a passenger aircraft with a fighter jet be correct?

[Majidi] It cannot be correct in any way under any circumstances. The world knows and the United States knows very clearly that no one in the world will accept that claim in any form. There are several reasons for this. First, the flight plans of commercial airlines are clear, because flight plans are agreed on for 6-month periods.

Our flight plans are also clear. They are made clear 6 months in advance regarding the times and routes. Relevant commissions meet, and airports prepare themselves to receive aircraft from various countries. Therefore, the United States and the U.S. air network knows on what days we have flights. The Airbus flight, too, was known to the United States.

Second, the radar of that warship in the Persian Gulf is highly sophisticated, and the warship is aware of all aircraft communications, that is, the pilot's communcations with the air control tower of Bandar-e 'Abbas, the Dubayy air control tower, and the Tehran control center. [passage omitted] Third, a special frequency is attached to the aircraft as a code, and the pilot activates it. The entire world knows the code which indicates that an aircraft is a passenger plane. They know all the specifications of that passenger plan, that is, the people who receive that frequency know everything.

That warship, with all its modern equipment, would clearly know at what altitude the Airbus flew, its speed, its weight [vazn], when it would land at Dubayy airport, and the destination of the flight. It would have known all of this information. Their claim can be totally rejected on this basis. [passage omitted] The Airbus flew precisely within its axis. The point of impact of the missile and the place where that plane crashed are precisely within the air corridor.

This is another strong proof why the U.S. claim is wholly untrue. Another thing relating to the details of the geographic location of the aircraft crash: The last communication from the pilot indicates that the plane was precisely within the air corridor. The U.S. diatribe must be completely rejected; it is all lies. Of course, the United States has no choice. In order to exonerate itself, it raises these doubtful issues.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [passage omitted] I am going to ask a question of Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam. Iran has asked for an immediate Security Council session to review this barbaric U.S. crime. We have been informed the session will be held this Tuesday. What does Iran expect from the council?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] As a person involved with diplomacy, I would state that we should entertain no hopes in international organizations' ability to administer justice. This applies particularly to those organizations which have been set up by the superpowers and are administered by them. This will be a good opportunity for us to explain to the world community our case and the defense that we will pursue. We have a high-ranking delegation which includes members of the Foreign Ministry as well as other pertinent organizations. In the best possible way we will try to explain to the people of the world the innocence of our nation, of the passengers of the aircraft, and the conditions of the crime in the face of the extensive and illegal U.S. presence in the region, particularly in the Persian Gulf.

The reaction of these organizations can be a lesson for the nations and peoples of the world so that they can see if justice is done. We will use this tribunal to raise the issue and explain our nation's position without any hope for results. I say that to hope for results is not just wrong but stupid because their nature is apparent. We shall see this in the future from the nature of their reaction.

Unfortunately, in our time justice has to be wrung from others, or should we say it has always been so. No one gives you your rights. We have to rely on our own nation and our own capabilities. Unfortunately, we must say that in today's world right equals might. We must maintain domestic unity and cohesion, fill the fronts, put our doubts about the war aside.

As noted in his holiness the imam's response to the message from His Holiness Ayatollah Montazeri, we must put doubts about the war aside because such doubts are tantamount to treachery, and hesitation is treachery to the prophet of the Lord, blessings be upon him.

We must not forget that the downing of the passenger plane is the result of the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf and their presence was brought about by Security Council Resolution No 598. This crime thus is a reflection of their action at the time.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] We heard the report. However, Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, a number of our listeners have asked whether before the calamity or during it there was a military clash going on the area of the plane's crash. Could you offer some clarification?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] As I stated, the Americans were looking for an excuse. I told you about the remarks made by Mr George Crist, commander of the task force in the Persian Gulf region, who stated they were looking for an excuse to attack Iran. They have used various excuses during their stay in the Persian Gulf.

This time, as before, the excuse had no foundation. The "Vincennes" attacked a number of patrol boats which were on routine duty. The helicopter that took off from the cruiser attacked the boats who returned fire and shot the helicpter down. The cruiser then attacked and sank two of our boats. Following this, they shot down our civilian aircraft in retaliation for their downed helicopter.

As I stated, they expected us to respond. This was a very appropriate opportunity for us to show the criminal nature of the United States to the entire world. It was therefore necessary to have patience and avoid any hasty action.

This has happened, and as we can see today, the entire world agrees we are innocent. Even allies of the United States, in order to save face, are forced to offer us condolences. The event is so tragic and calamitous that anyone who has flown even once is affected by it. The aircraft industry particularly, one of the largest industries in the world as well as commercial air transport, which is the main or one of the most important means of passenger transport of our time and is expanding while other means of transport are losing their attraction, is forced to take a constructive attitude on the matter.

The United States naturally will use political pressure in the Security Council, the ICAO, and everywhere else in order to close the subject. However, I hope that those representing their governments in such organizations will listen to their consciences and not bow to pressure. I hope they will say what is necessary, the truth, on the basis of their own regulations, charters, and thus make decisions, declare them, and implement them. I have my doubts naturally, but we will not lose hope. Now we will wait for the results to become clear, and then we will leave it to public opinion and the nations of the world. This will be a guide for our future work in international organizations for obtaining our rights.

[Correspondent] thank you very much. Mr Majidi, has the Civil Aviation Authority [CAA] taken any steps to stop such incidents?

[Majidi] First, let me say that our brother Mr (Ranaifar) is not here because he is away on a trip. With respect to the duties of the CAA and Islamic Republic airlines, I will say a few things for the benefit of the dear listeners before answering the question. [passage omitted] If the authority receives information indicating that the airspace is not secure, no aircraft is allowed to take off.

On that day, as Brigadier General Sattari [Air Force commander] stated, there were no signs of danger or differences from any other day. No red alert warnings were passed to the authorities who would have prevented us from taking off as all traffic is subject to the authority's approval.

As we said on the day of the flight, the situation in the region was like any other day. Our forces clash daily with the U.S. fleet. Our forces believe they are usurpers and have come to the region for no reason, and they respond to their aggressions. In any case, we had normal conditions under which flights took off every day. The control tower had no report other than all secure.

As for your question, the issue is what part of the country is secure as far as we are concerned. What part of the country was secure from Saddam and the United States in the rain of missiles a few months ago? Can we say there are parts of the country where Saddam's missiles will not hit? It is not a matter of our saying that because of U.S. aggression we must now cancel all our flights.

Naturally, we work according to the rules and regulations, and we request permission. Those who are responsible for air safety advise us whether to fly or not. When they withold permission flights are canceled. This is our written [words indistinct] but as Brig Gen Sattari explained, the region was normal, and nothing special was going on that needed to be broadcast.

[Correspondent] Let us listen to a few phone calls. [passage omitted] Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, will Iran consider the issue closed if the United States pays compensation?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] The issue will not be closed. They must pay compensation. They are responsible for all political and legal debts, including compensation. However, until there is a reciprocal attack, as stressed by our officials in response to the attack on us, the issue is not closed. The time, place, and form will be our decision, thereby giving us the advantage of surprise.

It is certain is that despite the fact they have sent us notes and have stressed that the issue is closed as far as they are concerned and that they do not want us to do anything to cause further problems in our relations with them, we must say here and now openly that the issue is not over for us. It will be over when we give the appropriate response to those responsible for this terrible crime.

[Correspondent] Thank you. In your view have we any hope that such crimes will be debated and that the culprits will be condemend in international circles, as long as the propagandists around the world are not seriously concerned with informing the people? I believe one of our listeners mentioned that media imperialism and control benefits the owners of mass media facilities in which the United States must have a stake. Would you explain this?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] No doubt the answer is yes. We can not deny they are very experienced in propaganda and have great control over all media. However, the power of justice as well as honor of the world, the honor for which his holiness Imam Hoseyn, blessings be upon him, was martyred—his holy grave was repeatedly desecrated but his innocence and message has reached us today despite all the attempts by the caliphates and the usurpers of the system against it—is the tradition by which our nation's innocence in the face of the shah's crimes and international imperialist media support for him, will be revealed to the world.

Our innocence in the war imposed on us has reached the world in many examples, such as the horror of Halabjah. The question is: How much sooner would we have had results had the mass media been working in a different way?

Regarding this incident, we will see that the nations of the world will support us. We will see that despite all the denials they are making about the event in the mass media, the truth about the event, what has happened, and what we have reported, will register. Up to yesterday the Americans were denying that the aircraft was in the correct flight path. They have now withdrawn that statement. In the begining, they even denied it was a passenger plane. The general trend of history, with the victory of the revolution as the turning point, exists. [passage omitted]

The U.S. crimes during the 25 years of cruel a government in this country were clearly revealed to the world's nations through the publication of documents from the den of espionage. Other crimes committed by criminals against nations, whether in Nicaragua, South Africa, or in occupied Palestine are now being revealed to the world. I am hopeful and I consider it my duty to concentrate our efforts and discuss these aspects. We will see results. Our participation in international organizations as a propaganda tribunal stems from this. We do not participate in order to obtain our rights; we are primarily defending ourselves against mischief and explaining our position. I am hopeful. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Let me ask another question, Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam. What are the Foreign Ministry's plans for exposing the nature of the recent U.S. crime and for enlightening the public?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] As I said in response to another question, a headquarters will certainly be established. Detailed plans were drawn up in coordination with other organizations. I mentioned some of them: a letter to the ICO secretary general and also a letter to the head of the Nonaligned Movement; the involvement of large international committees as well as the Red Cross. We will show film of the incident just as we have shown the Halabjah film. [passage omitted]

We will continue our contacts with people and news organizations in this connection, along with neutral judicial and humanitarian organizations in the world. To clarify our position in international organizations, we will contact their members and solicit their support. Of course, the support will not be decisive. Everyone will respond to the extent of their political orientation, with respect to their agreement or opposition to the United States.

[Correspondent] How will you react to countries which treated the matter lightly?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] The first danger which always exists for such countries is that they will be deprived of our friendship in the world. Deprivation of our friendship is costly in the world today because we have many supporters in the world. They respond with friendship in the instances of friendship toward us and with enmity in instances of enmity toward us. Of course, as I said, most countries that I can think of just now, because of the enormity of the incident, have at least expressed condolences. Some of them have detracted from their condolences by stating other positions in their messages. Others have not done that; they have condemned the United States. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In response to message from Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, the imam called on the people and the authorities to create a great movement in the war and to confront the United States with full force. In your view, Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, what are the duties of the people and the authorities in fulfilling that call?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] Let me put it this way. Our nation's war with arrogance and with all its lackies is a war of life and death. Just as the imam's message stated, it is a war of beliefs. Our existence is their nonexistence, and their nonexistence is our existence. Either we are victorious in the war and we live, or we are defeated and must witness, God forbid, the consequences of defeat. [passage omitted]

It is the duty of everyone now to put aside any doubts which have formed in their hearts as a result of some issues and to concentrate with greater seriousness on the issues concerning the beginning of the war. If we did not understand the meaning of the war when it was first imposed on us, we can understand it very well now.

They want us to be destroyed so that the Islam we have introduced to the world will be destroyed. They want us to be destroyed so that, just as his eminence the imam stated in the message, their rule over the world of the barefooted, over all the oppressed and deprived people who now look to us in hope... [changes thought]

It is much clearer to me now than at first that, God forbid, our defeat here will be the defeat of many hopes and dreams on a global level, whether Islamic or non-Islamic, which are linked to us. In other words, we are a nation and a country which has slapped the United States, the dominant power of the time, and we have shown that, with our bare hands, it was possible to take action to gain our rights and to establish the power of popular rule. They want to break this.

Now, what has given us this power is the love of Islam, our love of martyrdom, and the leadership of the imam. They want to destroy all of these so that they are no longer confronted by these facts, so that their rule may continue. If at one time we were fighting only for our own nation, if at one time we were fighting for our own land, now the meaning of this war is much greater. Now it means that they have fought for 7 or 8 years, but could not succeed. If we had been defeated at the beginning, we would not have struggled for 7 or 8 years.

We would have been defeated. Now the responsibility of every single one of us—the young mobilization troops who went to the war, those who sit behind desks like myself, and the military commanders—is much greater because all the blood that has been shed has become

assets; it must bear fruit. I consider it the duty—I am too unimportant to say anything—but I consider it the duty of anyone in anywhere to devote themselves to the war. [passage omitted] We must understand that, if we do not fight them on the battlefronts, they will come to Tehran, make us all subjects, and inflict on us what they imagine to be suitable so that no one will ever again dare to raise this slogan and adopt this method in the world.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, for accepting the invitation to speak on this program. And you also, Mr Majidi. Let us leave you, dear listeners, along with the guests of the program and our colleagues at the Voice of the Islamic Republic until next week. May God keep you.

Australian Envoy Expresses Sympathy Over Airbus

LD1307203088 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Australian Ambassador in Tehran Michael Landale announced his country's support for Iran's stands at the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) session which started in Montreal today to discuss the shooting down of an Iranian airliner by U.S. forces.

In his meeting with acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here Wednesday, Landale also expressed his country's deep sympathies over the catastrophe in the Persian Gulf.

In response, Besharati explaining the unmanly U.S. crime in the Persian Gulf announced the Islamic Republic willingness to expand relations with Australia.

On July 3, a U.S. cruiser fired two missiles at a routine Dubayy-bound Iranian Airbus-300 killing all 290 passengers including 66 children on board.

Employment Official Interviewed on Manpower Bill

LD1207225688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpt] According to an IRNA report, Mr Razavi, National Administration and Employment Affairs [NAEA] secretary general in an interview today discussed various aspects of the bill on balancing manpower in government organizations, which was approved by the cabinet.

He said to create the necessary changes in the administration of government organizations and balancing posts, the following are among NEAE's goals in preparing the bill: reducing government expenditure by eliminating any disorganized hiring as well as increasing the support personnel in organizations, reducing by 80 percent currently vacant posts, evaluating the services of contract employees and confirming those posts, and absorbing capable and specialist forces and members of martyrs' families and the sacrificers of the Islamic Revolution.

He added: To avoid early retirements and to improve the administrative makeup of government organizations, measures have been taken to transfer government pensions to the social security system. According to this bill, all government ministries and organizations are to form committees under the responsible minister or the highest ranking official of the respective organization in order to fully implement the various articles of the bill. [passage omitted]

Council of Experts To Hold Annual Meeting 16 Jul

LD1307192588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] The secretariat of the Council of Experts invited all the honorable members of that council to take part in the official annual meeting of the Council of Experts, which will be convened on Saturday 16 July at 1600 on the premises of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

IRGC Ministry Troops Dispatched to Front

LD1307084088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Continuing the departure of forces for the war fronts, this morning a group of conscripts and volunteers from the IRGC Ministry left for the battlefronts under the banner of "Forces of His Holiness Mohammad." During the departure ceremonies, the warrior forces chanted crushing slogans such as "War, war until victory" and were sent off to the fronts by IRGC officials and the Hezbollahi ummah. These forces are the third special group dispatched from the ministry to the battlefronts.

A number of conscript IRGC personnel and personnel trained at the Kerman IRGC naval training center, also chanted "War, war until victory" and "Death to the United States," and they announced their complete support for the continuation of the holy defense until final victory. Then they left for the battlefronts.

IRGC Announces SAIRI Recruitment Drive

LD1407090788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] The IRGC General Staff has issued a statement announcing that the logistics department of Iraqi mobilization [as heard] of the IRGC, in order to meet its manpower requirement, accepts Muslims and committed Iraqi youths who have been deported to Iran.

The volunteers can register at the mobilization recruitment offices of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] all over the country, during office hours daily, except on weekends and during holiday periods. Meanwhile, the telephone number, 560327 in Tehran, is ready to answer any questions from the volunteers.

Volunteers Depart From Zanjan Province
LD1307213888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] A large group of redispatched and trained mobilization forces left Zanjan Province for the battlefronts today. These forces from Zanjan, Abhar, and (Khodabandeh) received a worthy sendoff from the people of Zanjan. IRNA reports that another group of fresh and redispatched forces left Genaveh for the front yesterday evening.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraqi Planes Violate Airspace
LD1307145688 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., July 13, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes violated the air space of Orumiyeh and Piranshahr at 12:40 hours (09:10 GMT) today. The intruding planes fled the region without carrying out any operations due to the heavy anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian combatants.

Air Force Bombs Panjwin Area
LD1307165288 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Iranian Air Force pilots heavily bombarded Iraqi positions, fortifications and troop-cencentration sites in Panjwin operational region at 13:40 and 13:45 GMT Wednesday.

Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic's Army, announcing the above, said the jet-fighters returned to their bases safely after inflicting substantial casualties and damage on Iraqi forces.

Communique No 3,262
LD1307165788 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants smashed several Iraqi attacks in Panjwin operational region Tuesday, inflicting substantial casualties on Ba'thist troops and setting afire a large number of enemy tanks and other armoured hardware. They also shot down an enemy helicopter, said a military communique here Wednesday.

The 3262nd Joint Staff communique said that heavy battles between Iranian combatants and Iraqi troops are continuing in Panjwin region with the former holding the upper hand.

Pitched fightings are going on in several axes in the southern sector with Iraqi forces deploying heavy chemical arms in Chananch, Faqqeh and Sharhani.

Elsewhere on the battlefields, Iranian artillery fire checked Iraqi logistical operations in Halabjah, Shanchdari [name as received] and Sayyid Sadiq Tuesday.

In the western fronts Tuesday, heavy fire of Iran's Muslim forces inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi tanks in Sumar and checked enemy engineering operations in Mehran.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian naval units in addition to carrying out their routine patrol missions, closely monitored movement of four Iraqi vessels in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway and around Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah oil platforms Tuesday, concluded the communique.

Fighting in Dehloran, Panjwin
LD1307170688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Following the aggression of the army of the Iraqi mercenaries on the frontier areas of our country in the general region of Sharhani, the courageous fighters of the H.H. the Prophet Division of the IRGC, this morning attacked the invading Iraqi forces near Dehloran, inflicting heavy blows and damage on them.

According to an IRNA report, during this defensive operation, which at times involved hand-to-hand combat, the brave volunteer fighters showed their outstanding perseverence and killed or wounded hundreds of enemy troops. After this operation they returned to their defensive postions.

According to the same report, at 2030 last night the enemy attempted to attack the positions of the 3d Brigade of the Sanandaj 28th Division of the Islamic Republic's army in the Panjwin operational zone. However, the considerable courage of the units of the division repulsed repeated enemy offensives.

Several enemy tanks have been destroyed in the Panjwin plain. Also, an Iraqi helicopter was targeted and downed as a result of our units' fire. According to latest available reports, the intense encounters in this region continue.

Iraq Bombs Piranshahr Area
LD1407101988 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., July 14, IRNA—A woman was martyred and seven others wounded as Iraqi aircraft bombed the vicinity of Kaseh Garan village of Piranshahr District in northwestern Iran, Wednesday afternoon.

Farms and pasture lands of the village were also damaged in the bombing which set fire to wheat crops.

Although the so-called war of the cities officially ended at 24 hours on April 20, Iraqi forces started chemical attacks on Iranian villages in the western border strip the

very next day. Since then Iraqi forces have been continuing deployment of chemical weapons and bombing economic and industrial centers of Iran in numerous cases.

Iraqi forces deployed chemical bombs on two villages near Huzgan in Khuzestan Province 13 hours after a halt to the fifth round of the war of the cities was officially declared.

In another development, three more villages in Susangerd in the same province were target of Iraqi chemical weapons a few hours after Huzgan was attacked. Tens of civilians were martyred and scores of others wounded by suffocating and other chemical weapons.

So far 30 villages in Bakhtaran, Khuzestan, Kurdestan and West Azarbayjan Provinces have been chemically bombed by Iraqi forces since April 21.

Furthermore, ten purely civilian quarters were bombed in Sar Dasht, Paveh, Ahvaz and Kordestan. At least four cities and villages in Khuzestan and Kordestan were barraged by Iraqi artillery fire. Reports indicate that at least 158 civilians have been martyred and 858 others wounded over this period.

The figures presented here are based only on early reports.

Iraq Uses Mustard Gas Bombs

LD1407091088 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., IRNA—Iraqi aircraft dropped chemical bombs over "Pir Safa" village in Marivan, in this province at 17:30 hours local time (14:00 hours gmt) Wednesday.

The bombs contained mustard gas.

No report is available yet on possible casualties.

Two villages in Marivan were also target of Iraqi destructive bombs wednesday. Two other villages in the same area were chemically bombed two days ago by Iraqi forces.

'New Defensive Positions' Taken

LD1407130088 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 14 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants have been stationed in new defensive positions in Hajj 'Umran general region in the northwestern fronts in compliance with the policy to find access to suitable tactics and a better war strategy.

The evacuation of the region by the Muslim forces has taken place for a more appropriate deployment of combat forces in other defensive lines.

Nepal

AFP Reports on 1987-88 Fiscal Year Results

BK1207030088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0153 GMT 12 Jul 88

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, July 12 (AFP)—Nepal recorded a 383 million U.S. dollar trade deficit in the 1987-88 fiscal year which ends Friday, Finance Minister Bharat Bahadur Pradhan said. Imports totalled $553.19 million against exports of $170.2 million, Mr Pradhan told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The deficit was boosted by the cost of a Boeing 757 jet for the national carrier Royal Nepal Airlines and by construction materials and machinery for foreign-aided projects, he said. These include the $326 million Marsyangdi hydroelectric facility which is due to be completed in 1990. "A more open and liberal import licensing policy for industrial raw materials, machinery and spare parts...has also enhanced the import figure," Mr Pradhan added.

In fiscal 1986-87, Nepal's trade deficit stood at $336.7 million on exports of $127.3 million against imports of $464 million. A Finance Ministry official said the balance of payments position had been deteriorating since fiscal 1982-83. But he added that it began to recover after a 17.3 percent devaluation in November 1985 of the Nepalese currency against the U.S. dollar.

Nepal recorded a $23.87 million balance of payments surplus in 1985-6, but this fell to $16 million the following year due to a sharp decline in exports, the official said.

In spite of the heavy trade deficit, the country's balance of payments recorded a surplus of $36.08 million in the first seven months of the fiscal year ending Friday, up from $2.08 million in the same period the previous year, he said. The main reason for the increase in the balance of payments was a 15 percent rise in private sector revenue and the seizure of 364 kilos of gold from smugglers in fiscal 1987-88, the official said.

Enforcement of stringent monetary and fiscal policies were also a major factor, he added, explaining that as a result, foreign exchange reserves increased to $256.89 million in the first nine months of the current fiscal year. The finance minister has said foreign exchange earnings should reach $297.8 million by the end of the fiscal year.

He said he hoped to check the high increase rate of 24 percent in the money supply by allowing imports of 26 more items, including industrial raw materials, consumer goods such as baby foods and powdered milk, and other daily necessities.

"The trend in national economic activities during the first nine months of fiscal 1987-88 is encouraging because of the positive results of the gross national product (GNP) increment by 7.1 percent and the expansion of domestic credits to the productive sectors, imports and exports and in balance of payments," Mr Pradhan told a press conference Saturday.

But he acknowledged that the government had been unable to reduce inflation to single digit figures. Inflation was running at 13.3 percent in 1986-87 and 11.4 percent in the current fiscal year, he said. "Though we have not been able to check the inflation rate to a one digit figure," Mr Pradhan said, "we have been able to arrest it from rising uncontrollably."

This was due mainly to the adoption over the past two years of fiscal and monetary measures to improve production and domestic supply situation, he said. "We will pursue the same policy more vigorously in the coming months," Mr Pradhan said.

The National Panchayat (Parliament) began deliberations Sunday on the government's new budget, which has been strongly criticised by some members as inflationary and based on erroneous economic data.

Pakistan

Bhutto Attends Lahore Rally for Elections

BK1307123088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1143 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, July 13 (AFP)—Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto has warned that political parties would launch a movement to oust the government if President Mohammed Ziaul Haq delayed elections. Ms. Bhutto told a mammoth rally organised by the nine-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) the government should hold party-based elections and "accede to the peoples verdict."

In a post-midnight speech before tens of thousands of people at the Mochi Gate grounds, she warned that Gen. Zia would be held "responsible for the consequences" if general elections were delayed beyond the constitutional limit of 90 days following his May 29 dissolution of parliament. Other opposition leaders pledged at the late-night meeting that the MRD would launch a movement to seize power if elections were not held, saying the people wanted a change in the government.

It was Ms. Bhutto's first rally since the Supreme Court declared her Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) eligible to contest elections, and she selected Lahore to launch her mass contact campaign before the elections. Earlier Ms. Bhutto led a massive, six-hour procession from the Lahore airport to Mochi Gate in the old part of the walled city. Observers said the procession was a show of strength by the PPP ahead of the snap polls President Zia is expected to announce in next few days.

Benazir Bhutto assumed the party leadership after her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, deposed in a bloodless coup by Gen. Zia, was executed on a political murder conspiracy charge on a split court verdict in 1979. In a speech punctuated with calls from the crowd, "we will avenge Bhutto's death," Ms. Bhutto told the rally she had not entered politics for vengeance but to serve the nation.

She called upon the Armed Forces to stay out of politics and demanded that President Zia resign as chief of the Army Staff. Ms. Bhutto said there were moves afoot to promote Gen. Zia to the rank of field marshal, "for losing Siachen" Glacier to Indian forces in northern Kashmir.

In a reference to the sacking of Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo, Ms. Bhutto said "if President Zia could not co-exist with a government he nominated he could not co-exist with any other government."

Carrying the PPP flag, people using every mode of transport including tractors, motorbikes, horse carts and bicycles, thronged the airport hours before her scheduled 5.30 p.m (1230 GMT) arrival from Islamabad Tuesday. Ms. Bhutto's party was in sharp focus along the procession route with PPP party flags eclipsing the banners of other parties.

Ms. Bhutto, who is expecting a child in December, smiled and waved from a heavily-garlanded jeep to the crowds along the 14-kilometer (8.5-mile) route, chanting "Benazir will now rule the country."

In case her PPP swept the polls Ms Bhutto has to co-exist with Gen. Zia who, under a 1984 referendum, would remain elected president until 1990.

Other MRD leaders accused the president of bringing a host of problems to the country and blamed the Zia government for "large scale corruption, heroin peddling by the top hierarchy, near bankruptcy of the economy and ethnic clashes."

President Zia dissolved Parliament and sacked the government on May 29, accusing the government of incompetence, corruption, and failing to speed the Islamisation of the country's laws. He has since appointed a caretaker government and introduced Islamic law across the country.

The information minister said Monday Gen. Zia would announce a programme for elections "within a few days".

Zia Thanks India's Gandhi for Good-Will Message

BK1207162488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The president has thanked the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for his good-will message while overflying Pakistan's territory yesterday on his way to Jordan. In his message, the president reciprocated

Indian premier's sentiments for the establishment of harmonious and cooperative relations between the two countries in a spirit of good-neighborliness and to mutual benefit.

Outgoing Netherlands Envoy Calls on President

BK1307154288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Netherlands' outgoing Ambassador Van Geen paid a farewell call on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad today. On this occasion, the president appreciated the Netherlands Government's support for Pakistan's stand on the Afghanistan issue and for its assistance in looking after the Afghan refugees.

U.S. Navy Persian Gulf Action Criticized

BK1307141188 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 5 Jul 88 p 10

[Editorial: "A Passenger Airliner Disaster and U.S. Responsibility"]

[Text] The other day, an Iranian passenger airliner crashed after being hit by a U.S. missile over the Strait of Hormuz, killing 298 people, including the crew, on board. The U.S. Defense Department, which had initially denied the downing of the plane, later admitted that the passenger plane was destroyed by a missile fired by the U.S. Navy during the ongoing naval war between Iran and the United States. It also claimed that the incident was merely accidental. The U.S. President expressed regret over the tragedy.

This is not the first incident in which a superpower has committed a crime against the innocent civilians in the air. Before this, the Soviet Union, too, had taken the lives of several hundred people by destroying a South Korean passenger airliner. The shooting down of civilian planes contravenes the superpowers' claims that they follow the policy of peace, justice, democracy, equality, and humanism all over the world and gives rise to the feeling that the superpowers are trying to subdue and subjugate small nations and innocent civilians through terrorism and use of force.

As a democratic country, the United States claims to be the champion of human rights throughout the world and likes to be called a friend of the Islamic world; but its silent as well as active support for Israel's anti-Arab and genocidal actions in the Middle East have rendered Washington's claims ineffective.

Even though the U.S. authorities are describing the latest action against Iran as a regrettable and an accidental mistake, the reality is that it is the worst incident of terrorism and it has increased the doubts about air travel safety. This incident is the aftermath of the mistake—if it is accepted to be a mistake—of the navy of a superpower which is currently unrivaled in the fields of defense and science and technology, and which always tries to brand the struggling freedom-loving organizations worldwide as opportunists, terrorists, insane, and antihumanity for the petty activities they carry out to achieve their objectives.

It is the mistake of a superpower which refuses to accept the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people just because certain extremist Palestinian groups have, according to U.S. viewpoints, committed acts of terrorism. It is only the United States which has always disliked Iran and Libya because of their "hard-line attitude;" but, its own position is that civilian planes are becoming the targets of its missiles.

Before this, innocent women and children had become the victims of U.S. barbarism and terror in the wake of its attack on the presidential palace in Libya. This tragic incident proves that the superpowers consider international law and the human rights restrictions obligatory for only small nations, but they themselves never refrain from any genocidal action they deem fit to bring the smaller countries to accepting their hegemony and to punish smaller states for their insolence.

It is incomprehensible how the U.S. Navy experts and the sophisticated equipment installed on the ship could not differentiate between a civilian airliner and an F-14 fighter aircraft and made it a target of their missile. The possibility of a technical fault cannot be ruled out, but the United States must acknowledge that when a superpower's navy adopts such a careless course of action, it increases the threat to mankind's peace and security. Any unlawful and armed actions by any state, nation, and group against innocent civilians cannot be supported.

Whenever any U.S. and Israeli nationals and diplomats are harmed and their property is damaged in any incident caused by Libya, Iran, and the PLO, the United States does not only raise a hue and cry, but also sees in it a threat to world peace and human rights and begins its efforts to have political and economic sanctions imposed on them. But, now, the United States itself wants to escape the blame by describing the loss of 298 lives as an accident, which is not justified.

Even though President Reagan has described the Iranian plane tragedy as a regrettable incident, there is always the possibility of such incidents in view of the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf on the pretext of the Iran-Iraq war and the situation created there by the U.S. Navy and Air Force during the past 3-4 years. It is, therefore, very difficult to describe the Iranian plane crash as an accident.

We have repeatedly expressed our concern in these columns on the U.S. military activities in the Gulf. The aforementioned incident is also linked with those activities. Therefore, where it is obligatory on the part of this superpower to end its military activities in the Gulf to

prevent the recurrence of such unpleasant and regrettable incidents, it is also the duty of both Iran and Iraq to see what results their meaningless confrontation—based on their intransigence—is bringing about.

While we share the grief of the Iranian people over this regrettable incident, we also think it necessary to urge the Iranian leadership to eliminate—and not to ignore on account of their temporary emotions and feelings—the grave situation and the dangers that the people of the two Muslim countries, especially the Iranian civilian population, are facing in view of their policy to keep the Gulf war raging. Why should a situation be created which could provide an opportunity for a superpower to make the innocent civilians the targets of its military terrorism?

Had Iran and Iraq cooperated positively with the efforts so far made by the United Nations Security Council, the ICO, and the Nonaligned Movement to end the Gulf war, the meaningless conflict would have ended by now and the process of superpower rivalry—which poses a serious threat to world peace and regional security—would not have started. It is, therefore, the duty of the leadership of the two countries to consider open-mindedly and sincerely the ways and means to end the Gulf war and to do away with the situation in which the military installations as well as the life and property of innocent civilians are no longer safe.

The United States should also admit its mistake and provide compensation to the dependents of the passengers of the Iranian plane according to international law and give a categorical and unambiguous assurance to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future, because if similar mistakes continue to occur, no plane—whether it belongs to the United States or the Soviet Union or to any small country—will be safe. It has to be seen how soon a superpower adopts an acceptable procedure to wash the stigma of the murder of 298 people off its forehead.

Sri Lanka

Indian Forces Kill 3 'Terrorists,' Wound 2

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["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 13 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Three LTTE terrorists were killed and two wounded by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in exchanges of fire yesterday at Pudukudirippu and Murunkan in the Wanni sector, Indian High Commission sources told LANKAPUVATH this evening. They said that one terrorist was killed in Vavuniya and two at Murunkan. One hardcore LTTE terrorist surrendered to the IPKF at Batticaloa and another cadre at Jaffna.

Two UNP Officials Killed in Ampara District

BK1307135188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1327 GMT 13 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 13 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Two unidentified gunmen shot dead Punchi Banda, president of the UNP branch at Koknahara and its secretary, Wijeratne Podinilame, when they were at work in their sugarcane plantation, at Kethsirigama in the Ampara District yesterday, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.

Five armed youths, suspected by police to be members of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna], who came riding motor cycles, had threatened the staff of the rural bank and agriculture service centre at Moranthuduwa and robbed a cash of rupees 35,000 and office equipment to the value of rupees 16,000.

An armed gang had shot and killed E.J. Andrew Piyasena, attached to the land registry, Kurunegala, and UNP organiser in Kanottuwa area, when he was at his house at Medagama in the Kurunegala District Sunday [10 July] night.

Five unidentified men armed with swords had stabbed to death Manaw Sirisena Dahanayake, who is a carpenter working at the residence of Mr Abeyanayake, District Council member for Akuressa in the Matara District. Police suspect this to be an act of the JVP.

Briefs

New Police Chief

Colombo, July 12 (LANKAPUVATH)—Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police [IGP] Ernest Perera has been appointed Sri Lanka's new inspector general of police. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that Mr Perera had been appointed IGP with effect from August 1, 1988. The present IGP Cyril Herath retires on July 30th. [Text] [*BK1207093288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0845 GMT 12 Jul 88*]